



Thousands of blacks were not COUNTED IN FLORIDA? Find out why?

See **OPINION** on A-4



Fashion mogul gets into the music game

See **ART 7** on B-4

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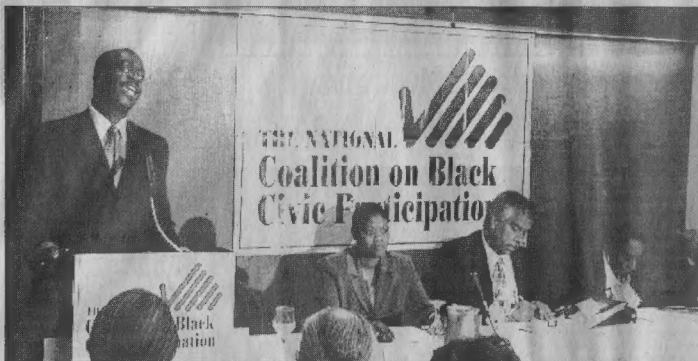
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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

November 15 - November 21, 2000

50 cents



Richard Womack, Chairman, NCBP & Director of Civil & Human Rights, AFL-CIO; Melanie L. Campbell, Executive Director, NCBP; Hillary Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau; Yvonne Scruggs Leftwich, Ph.D., Executive Director & COO, Black Leadership Forum

Record number of blacks voted

By Raoul Dennis

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—National African American voter turnout has hit highs not seen in decades and has outpaced that of mainstream America the NNPA has learned. In a recent press conference, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation announced that there were tremendous contributions made by African Americans at the polls dispelling the notion of a low Black vote in the 2000 elections.

Analysts and pundits gathered November 9 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC for the Lift Every Voice and Vote: Post Election Analysis of Black Voter Participation, sponsored by The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBPC). The prestigious bipartisan panel discussed the lack of mobilization strategy, provided a statistical analysis of the success of the effort, and communicated what the results of the election mean to the African American community.

"African Americans should feel that they fully exercised their franchise in this election" said Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, Executive Director of the Black Leadership Forum, a federation of Black civil rights and support groups. She cited Rep. Bobby Rush, for example, who spoke to eloquently on Election Night, that Gore owed his victory in Illinois to the African American vote. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Washington, DC, Maryland and many other states also showed strong African American turnout at the polls.

"The power of coalition mobilization throughout the African American community has never been more impressive," Scruggs-Leftwich said. "Organizations collaborated from their unique strengths and produced a Black voter turnout that significantly exceeded, on the national level (17 percent in the southern region, for example), Black representation in the American population (12 percent

of the total population)."

The coalition strength was the key to success according to the leadership. "The effort to get the Black vote out was no accident," exclaimed Melanie Campbell, executive director of NCBPC. "It was very strategic, it was organized and it was a coalition effort that included Operation Big Vote, the NAACP, Black Leadership Forum, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Black Youth Vote, National Urban League and many others."

David A. Bostitis, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, reported that in several states, including Florida, Missouri, New York, Georgia, Mississippi, Illinois, North Carolina, Michigan, Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas, the Black vote increased significantly over 1996.

For example, Florida was one of the key states that saw a substantial increase in Black voter participation. In 1996, the Black share of the vote, meaning the proportion of all voters who were African American, was 10 percent in 2000, the Black share of the vote was 16 percent, representing a 60 percent increase. "That indicated that there was a very, very substantive boost in turnout in Florida," Bostitis said.

As election night progressed, Black voters continued to come out in increasing numbers in comparison with recent years. In Missouri, for example, the Black vote increased by more than 140 percent from five percent in 1996 to 12 percent in 2000. New York increased by 22 percent. North Carolina increased from 18 to 21 percent; North Carolina from 13 to 20 percent; Mississippi from 27 to 34 percent and Texas from 10 to 13 percent.

"I have followed Black participation in elections for many, many years," Bostitis said. "What has generally been the case in the past is that the Black share of the



Melanie L. Campbell, Executive Director, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

New Jerseyans as confused as anyone over Indecision 2000

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Melissa Garcia smells a rat. She's just not sure if it's masquerading as an elephant or a donkey.

"It's too fishy," the Elizabeth woman said on the fourth day of national confusion over who won the extraordinarily close presidential election between Al Gore and George W. Bush. "Something's going on, either on Gore's side or Bush's side."

"It seems like everybody's cheating," she said between phone calls at a busy rental car counter outside Newark International Airport. "They're not being honest with us."

She said she voted for Bush, but now regrets having done so.

"Here I was, voting, thinking something was going to change, and it's just a big mess," she said. "Now, it's boring. I don't want to hear about it anymore."

She wasn't the only one. Voters across the nation say they're growing tired of the morass, and just want someone to be declared the winner.

"We need to stop worrying about this, and get back to worrying about what's wrong with this country," said Lee Orlando of Mount Laurel. "I find it all very interesting. There's so much contention over whether there's any validity left to the Electoral College."

Orlando said Floridians should be compelled to vote again.

"If you won the state, you won the state," she said. "I just hope it's over soon."

Roberta Smith of Elizabeth passed outside a

supermarket long enough to express frustration with the mercurial nature of deciding a winner.

"I think it's taking too long," she said. "It's next week, no, it's tomorrow, no it might be today. Who knows?"

She voted for Gore, but pegged the chances of him prevailing at "slim to none."

Gina Hill of Irvington also voted for Gore, but at this point, doesn't care who is eventually declared the nation's 43rd president.

"I just think the people down in Florida should have the same rights I had here in New Jersey," she said.

Hill predicted Bush will be inaugurated, but face a difficult time accomplishing anything.

"Probably Bush will be the next president, but in four years, he won't be re-elected," she said.

Council to the Port Authority: Stop ripping off the City of Newark

By Keimigh Sirleaf

The prosperity of Newark International Airport and the seaport area of Newark and Elizabeth would not be disputed by most. As one of the busiest on the Northeast, the airport is a thriving enterprise and is a major economic endeavor for the New York/New Jersey Port Authority.

However, according to the Newark City Council, the enormous revenue being generated by the airport and the seaport is not being equally distributed by the Port Authority.

In 1996, the City of Newark took legal action against the Port Authority because of what it believed to be the Port Authority's "deliberate attempt to underpay the City its fair share for city-owned land on which Newark International Airport and the Seaport are situated."

Currently leased by the Port Authority, the property accounts for one-third of Newark's 23-square miles of land.

The city claims that in 1999, the Port Authority only paid the city \$68 million based on \$578 million in gross revenues.

According to the Council, the original lease agreement signed between the Port Authority and the city in 1947 states that the City of Newark was to be paid "all income and revenue of any nature whatsoever."

Requests by the city for a review of the Port Authority's books have been "repeatedly stonewalled, blocked and in

every way been uncooperative and misleading," members of the council claim.

"All we want is for them to correct that 'fuzzy math' and give us the money that's due," Donald Bradley, the Newark Council president, said. "We have an obligation to the taxpayers of the City of Newark...the taxpayers of the City of Newark are in fact the owner of this land."

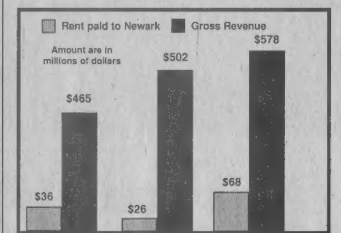
Based upon the contract language, the city's auditor and accountant reviewed documents which revealed that a minimum of \$207 million is owed, members of the Council said. According to them, this figure derives from the city's share of the \$6 per person passenger facility charge (PFC) levied against every person flying out of Newark Airport. Combined with the \$578 million in gross revenues, the city claims that these two revenue-generators clearly show nearly \$800 million owed to date.

"It's our land and all we ask is the revenue that's due us," said Councilwoman Bessie Walker.

Walker said that all the council wants is for the Port Authority to admit, "we have benefited off your land and are doing well and we want to give you your fair share."

The City of Newark is not the only city to bring the Port Authority into question with regards to its distribution of revenue earned from land of seaport cities. New York and Elizabeth have also criticized and taken steps for legal action against the Port Authority in recent years.

Newark Airport and Port Newark Gross Revenues (including PFCs) vs. Rent Paid to the City of Newark



See **RECORD** on page A-8

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NEWARK — The Wise Women's Center of Essex County College will offer a Seminar on Legal Issues such as child custody, divorce, renting, etc. from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (973) 877-1895.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

NEWARK — The NJ Historical Society presents "Cooking with Corn" at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 596-8500.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - JANUARY 1, 2001

CAPE MAY — Christmas in Cape May is charming and magical. For further information call Cindy Kluger at 809-884-1309 x. 12.

ATLANTIC CITY — Meet Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Paul Hornung At Resorts, catch the football fever with a free autograph signing event from 8-10 p.m. For further information call 609-340-6432.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

NEWARK — The Spanish Repertory Theater, in conjunction with the Center for Latino Arts and Culture at Rutgers University and the City of Newark Department of Neighborhood and Recreational Services, will present "Vieques," a comedy set on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico at the time when the U.S. Navy began to use the island for its military exercises. This event takes place at the Newark Public Library's Centennial Hall at 2 p.m. For more information, call (973) 733-7772.

CAPE MAY — A Physics Family Christmas, Friday thru Sunday. For more information call 609-884-5404.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18,

WYCOFF — Bergen County Department of Parks presents "Journey to Antarctica" by Paul Genistor at McFaul Environmental Center at 2 p.m. For more information call (201) 891-5571.

CRANFORD — Union County College will be hosting an open house on its Cranford Campus from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information call (908) 709-7112.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

CAPE MAY — Wine and Cheese Tasting at the Washington Inn. For further information call 609-884-5508.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

NEWARK — Physicians and staff from the Newark Department of Health and Human Services and collaborating agencies will host "Read the Ingredients: Eat Well, Stay Well," in Room B-29 of City Hall. Mavis Faulkner of the WIC Program will also discuss health lunches from 1 - 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '70 are planning a reunion with a tentative location. For information, call (908) 227-2410.

MORRISTOWN — Thanksgiving Weekend is Full of Fun and Learning at The Morris Museum, Rockin' and Rollin' Workshop for Children from 12-3 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 THROUGH DECEMBER 29

CAPE MAY — Lamplighter Christmas Tours, from 7-9 p.m. For further information call 609-884-5404.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '84 have planned a reunion at Berkeley Plaza. For information, call (732) 499-7086.

ONGOING

NEWARK — Poets and musicians are invited every Wednesday night for poetry/jazz held at Waset Kommuunity, 271 South 9th St.; at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (973) 678-3221.

JERSEY CITY — The Women's Center of New Jersey City University, 32 College Street, will have free support groups this fall. Call for registration at (201) 200-3189.

MORRISTOWN — The Brickford Theatre at the Morris Museum will honor the centennial Noel Coward's, "Blithe Spirit." The play will be performed on Thursday-Saturday evenings with a matinee on Sundays from October 18 through November 19.

MORRISTOWN — The Morris Museum is offering an after school drop-in art workshops on every Thursday from October 5 through December 7 at 4-7 p.m. For more information call (973) 538 - 0454 Ext. 254.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 14TH

CAPE MAY - A Victorian Tour and Tea Luncheon starting 12 noon. For further information call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ATLANTIC CITY - Atlantic City Hosts A Variety Of November Trade Shows, Eastern Regional United States Sign Council's Sign World USA. For further information call 609-449-7126.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

RARITAN CENTER - The Family Handyman Home Improvement Show, NJ Expo Center. For further information call 1-800-394-5157.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

CAPE MAY - 27TH Annual Candlelight House Tours from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For further information call 6029-884-5404.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

LINCROFT - The Manmott County Park System invites area residents of all ages to join in celebrating the holiday season at the annual "Holiday Happening." For further information call 732-842-4000 x. 4237 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

JERSEY CITY - The Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center will hold a "Kwaanza Celebration," 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. For further information call 201-200-3524.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

MORRISTOWN - Teddy Bear Tea at The Morris Museum (A great opportunity for Holiday Photos) For further information call 973-538-0454 ext. 239.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

NEWARK - Newark Public Library and IDT Corporation announce "IDT Reading Rewards" Program. For further information call 973-733-7798.

Once in a lifetime prize

West Africa Bound — Comcast representative Vanessa Azubuike-Perry (left), recently attended a luncheon at Fresh Waters in Plainfield to honor BET Movies/Starz grand prize winner, Vanessa Muhammed (center). The Plainfield resident entered BET's national sweepstakes by watching selected Pan African movies on Comcast Digital Cable and was chosen to attend the Espaco Pan African Film Festival in Duquodougou, Burkina Faso, West Africa. Chelsye J. Burrows, Director of BET Multicultural Communications, was also on hand to mark the occasion.



Nike appoints Leslye L. Mundy new director of Global Corporate Media Relations

Beaverton, Or. — Nike announced that Leslye L. Mundy, formerly vice president of internal communications for AutoNation, Inc., was appointed director of global corporate media relations. Mundy will be responsible for Nike's strategic global media relations with special emphasis on business and financial media. In addition, Mundy will manage the global corporate website, nikebiz.com.

Mundy comes to Nike from AutoNation, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, FL where she served as vice president of Internal Communications and vice president of the company's Automotive Rental Group, now ANC. Inc. as well as executive director of public relations and internal communications for Alamo Rent-A-Car.

Mundy has had diverse professional experience in the field of public relations, community affairs and media relations. She was Director of Corporate Relations for Viacom's Blockbuster Entertainment Group and Discovery Zone and held communications positions with Hoechst Celanese, the National Urban League and The Wall Street Journal.

A graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. with a double major in Political Science and Public Relations, Mundy has also done graduate work in public policy at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



Leslye L. Mundy

Janine Cilberto joins Valley National Bank as assistant vice president

Wayne — Janine Cilberto recently joined Valley National Bank as Assistant Vice President of Project Management in the Information Services Department. She will coordinate the planning and implementation of various Information Services and Operations projects. Cilberto will also assist in overseeing the newly created ISD Customer Service Department, which provides technical support to other areas of the bank.

She is a graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Cilberto has over 13 years of banking experience and resides in Elizabeth, NJ with her husband, Alfonso and two children.

Valley National Bancorp is a regional holding company headquartered in Wayne, NJ. Valley National Bank, its principal subsidiary, currently operates 117 offices located in 76 communities serving 10 counties throughout northern New Jersey. Valley's website can be found at valleynationalbank.com.

Do you have an opinion about something happening in your community? Write us: "Word On The Street," City News, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F, Newark, NJ 07102

Opportunity Knocks

•This fall semester, college bound students around the country have had a helping hand from Black Opal in achieving their educational dreams and aspirations. For the past seven years, \$20,000 has been awarded to 25 students who excel in scholastic studies, meeting and surpassing educational goals and humanitarian acts in their community.

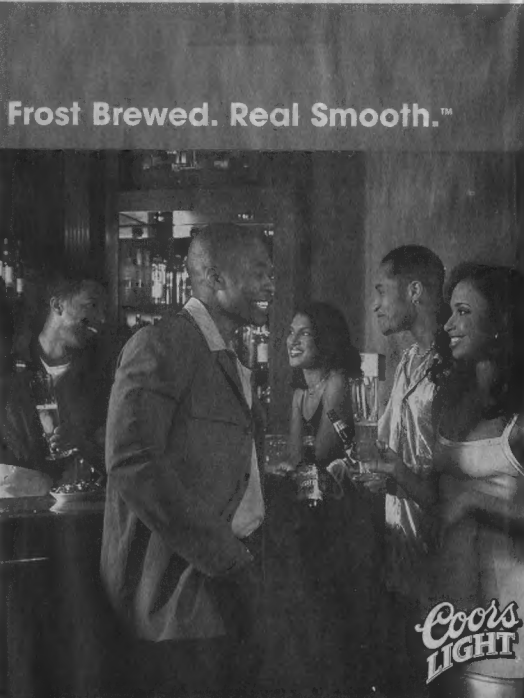
The Black Opal Achiever Awards scholarship program is designed to financially assist students with their college education.

Rite Aid, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and Duane Reade stores, in addition to any mass market retailer or drug store chain where Black Opal is sold. Applications can also be requested by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Black Opal Achiever Awards, P.O. Box 4291, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Applicants may be photocopies, but only one submission per person is permitted. All applications must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2001.

All Black Opal skincare and color cosmetics can be found at drug and mass retail stores nationwide. To find the store location nearest you call 800-554-8012.

•The U.S. Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the small business Administration and the NJ Small Business Development Center, presents a free seven session export training course for minority-owned firms with little or no international sales experience and will be conducting half-day, bi-weekly sessions in Newark.

Contact Dina Vulpis at (973) 645-4783 for more information.



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

Black Press Expects Little Support of Black Issues From Bush Administration

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—A Presidential election poll conducted by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, aka, the Black Press of America Black newspapers from New York to California revealed that most of the Black press endorsed Vice President Al Gore and the issues he endorsed.

Black newspaper publishers found Gore was far more supportive than Texas Gov. George W. Bush on Black issues. Although many papers did not support a policy that endorsed a presidential candidate, many publishers did voice a collective position on issues such as police violence, Supreme Court nominations and affirmative action programs.

The poll showed most Black papers supported Gore's stand on most issues, including Supreme Court appointments, racial profiling, police hate crime legislation, affirmative action, small business development and Africa trade.

The poll surveyed more than 200 Black-owned Black publishers and editors, and that President-elect Bush would not meet their concerns on most issues of interest to African Americans. In fact, of those publications that endorsed a presidential candidate, 95 percent supported Gore.

Ninety-eight percent of those African-American publications surveyed reported they saw little or no benefits of a Bush administration for Black communities.

Federal IT Workers To Receive Increase In Salary

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—In an effort to better compete for information technology talent, the federal government recently announced that it will increase the salaries of entry level, and mid-level high workers. The increase was announced at 3 percent and will take effect Jan. 1.

The plan, intended to attract young, college graduates as well as to retain mid-level talent, will bring salaries up from as much as a \$20,000 per year lag in comparison with private industry. Nearly 33,000 federal employees now in what are called computer specialist areas will benefit from the plan.

Grades five through twelve are covered in the raise as the government is seeking to hire more employees in this area. Entry-level employees in the GS-9 grade for example, currently making \$35,000 to \$46,000 will gain a jump of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year starting Jan. 1.

AT&T Breakup Sets Up Possibilities for Investors, Not Much Savings for Consumers

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The intended move to split AT&T into four companies may be a potential attraction for investors, but will mean little gains for consumers, according to analysts. In fact, some consumers may feel a negative strain from the breakup as the restructure will lead to greater competition between companies. AT&T announced plans to split the company last month.

"We're not going to have a second wire service competing to fry your local telephone business to drive down the cost of service any time soon," said Mark Cooper, director of research for the Consumer Federation of America.

Still, AT&T says that it will not abandon its general plan to roll out local phone service over its cable lines thereby competing toe-to-toe with Bell Atlantic (Verizon) and its local service strength. (Bell has the overwhelming majority of market share in local service since their phone lines have long been set directly into homes).

Over the next two years, the company will turn its wireless and cable businesses into companies with their own stock. Such a move may prove lucrative to investors over the long run as the wireless and cable companies will represent high-earning potential and will not be bogged down on paper by less the appealing annual report bottom lines.

By Jimmy Briggs
Special to the NNPA

NEW YORK (NNPA) —

Throughout the presidential campaign, much attention has been devoted to the two primary candidates' view of the U.S. Supreme Court and the impact of their possible selections on the 1973 "Roe v. Wade" case which legalized a woman's right to have an abortion. Indeed, Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, our next president, have opposing views of what the Supreme Court is about, but the right to choose is not only at risk. Little attention has been paid to the impact on affirmative action, prisoners' rights or redistricting.

"When it's to neither candidates advantage, they're not going to bring it up," said David Bositis, senior political research at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (JCPES). (Neither Bush nor Gore) is going to get some big plus in talking about the court and affirmative action."

It has been six and a half years since President Clinton last appointed a judicial nominee to the Supreme Court. Stephen Breyer, the longest intern in 177 years. The average age on the court is 66 years, and with three judges in their 70's or 80's, the possibility of the next elected president appointing two or three judges to the bench is very real. For minorities, women and the physically challenged, the consequences are pivotal.

"The future of the Supreme Court is the most important issue, in the most important national election

since 1932," argues Ralph G. Nease, president of People for the American Way. "If one or two more right wing Supreme Court justices get on the court, we will have the curtailment of abortion as well as many fundamental civil rights and liberties that we've taken granted for decades. Too many times you hear 'Roe v. Wade' mentioned, but what a lot of people don't know [is], there would be more than 100 precedents that would be affected."

During the first televised presidential debate last month, Bush stated: "The voters will know I'll put competent judges on the bench, people who will strictly interpret the Constitution and will not use the bench to write social policy. I don't believe in liberal, activist judges. I believe in strict 'constructionists,' and those are the kind of judges I will appoint."

The "constructionist" judicial view takes a literal, narrow reading of the U.S. Constitution and allowed the court to establish the "separate but equal" doctrine in the 1896 "Plessy v. Ferguson" case. The models in whom Bush has expressed admiration are Supreme Court right-wingers, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the two most conservative judges on the current court. Gore has pointed to former activist judges William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall as his appointee benchmarks. Both presidential candidates are seeking to nominate the first Hispanic justice to the Supreme Court.

In its last term, 20 of 73 cases were decided by 5-4 margins with the core majority bloc consisting of Chief Justice William Rehnquist,

Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor being the swing vote. The group has helped smother down racial preferences in Black-majority congressional districts and federal contracting. Liberal wing leader John Paul Stevens, O'Connor and Rehnquist are the oldest members of the court.

"The way our court interprets our founding charter of the Constitution for the next several decades will be determined by who is on that court," says Joe Andrews, a Gore spokesman. "The vice-president and [the Democratic] Party does not believe in a litmus test for judicial appointments."

"Clearly Al Gore will look for people who value inclusion at all levels because they recognize the excellence and legitimacy of all our public institutions really demand that inclusion as well," continued Andrews. "That's the Democratic tradition that Al Gore is a part of, where the Republican tradition is actually to block African-American appointees to the federal bench. If you are African-American, this Republican Senate makes it twice as likely that you will not be confirmed. For those who are confirmed, it takes them twice as long as it does if you are White and you're male. They'll have to explain that. [George W. Bush] claims that he's not going to know whether [his appointees] support affirmative action or a woman's right to choose. That's absurd on its face. The only way that would be happening is if you were appointing people that had no record at all and by definition should not be on the Supreme Court

or federal bench."

Last June, the People for the American Way Foundation released a report after six months of research, entitled, "Courting Disaster: How a Scalia-Thomas Supreme Court Would Endanger Our Rights and Freedoms." It asks the question, "If these opinions were shared by a majority of the court, how would that change the outcome of the Court's decisions?" For example, Thomas argued in *Missouri v. Jenkins* (1995) that the Supreme Court made a mistake in considering the psychological and social impact of segregation on Black children. And he goes on to ignore the significant role that housing discrimination and other types of illegal bias play in continuing public school education.

Consistently, Scalia has argued against affirmative action and according to "Courting Disaster," a Scalia-Thomas majority would negate some of the Supreme Court's most important voting rights cases.

In *Holder v. Hall* (1994), Scalia and Thomas took a position so extreme that justices Harry Blackmun, David Souter, John Paul Stevens and Ruth Ginsburg argued that it would have meant "overturning or reconsidering" 38 previous rulings based on the Voting Rights Act of 1965, prohibiting racial discrimination in all aspects of voting.

The current session began on Oct. 2 and the justices accepted 47 cases for review, with the possibility of 30 more, among the selected is *Hunt v. Chromatic*, which represents the fourth time the current court has examined Black-majority congressional districts.

Plaintiffs say Pittsburgh transit discriminatory

By Todd Spangler
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Port Authority of Allegheny County says expanding bus service into racially diverse neighborhoods east of the city will help the environment by getting people out of their cars and benefit the economy by providing access to jobs.

Lawyer David Rodas is having none of it.

Sure, he says, the Port Authority wants to spend \$62 million to extend a 7-mile roadway reserved for bus traffic into those areas east of Pittsburgh. But the agency is also planning a \$38 million program to augment what Rodas calls a more efficient light rail line into affluent — and predominantly white — towns south of the city.

On behalf of a handful of residents, the town of Edgewood and a pair of community service groups in the eastern neighborhoods, Rodas is suing the Port Authority in federal court for reserving quieter, cleaner and better light rail for affluent whites.

But there's not even agreement on the case between the people who live in the towns.

The Port Authority says two of the plaintiffs, the Rankin Community Development Corp. and the Swissvale Economic Development Corp., endorsed the bus project five years ago. Swissvale Borough backed it as well. The Pittsburgh branch of the NAACP has stayed out of the lawsuit, and so has the Wilkinsburg branch, representing the town where the busway extension will start.

A look at how and why America voted

By Laura Meckler
Associated Press Writer

Overall: George W. Bush won solid majorities of men, whites and the wealthy. Al Gore was winning among women, blacks, Hispanics and those earning below \$30,000.

Families: Bush was leading among voters who were married, particularly those with children; Gore was doing better among those who were not married.

Religion: Bush was leading among Protestants, and Gore was leading among Jews and those who did not identify with any religion. Bush and Gore were splitting the Catholic vote. The more likely a voter was to attend religious services, the more likely he or she was to vote for Bush.

Party: Bush and Gore each had overwhelming leads among Republicans and Democrats, respectively. They were running even among independents. A small chunk of independent voters favored Ralph Nader.

Moderates: About half of voters considered themselves politically moderate, and they favored Gore. More voters called themselves conservative than liberal; conservatives heavily favored Bush and liberals heavily favored Gore.

Most Important Issues: Bush was winning among voters who cared most about social affairs and taxes. Gore was winning among voters who cared most about health care, federal funding for prescription drugs, the economy and education.

Most Important Qualities: Bush was winning among voters who cared most about a candidate being honest, a strong leader and having good judgment in a crisis. Gore was winning those who cared most about who has the right experience and who understands complex issues.

Issues or Personality? A solid majority of voters said a candidate's position on issues was more important to them than leadership and personal qualities.

Bush-Drunk Driving: About one in four voters said the revelation last week of Bush's 1976 arrest for drunken driving was very or somewhat important to their vote. Those voters went overwhelmingly for Gore.

International Crisis: Voters were slightly more likely to believe that Gore would do a good job handling an international crisis.

Military: Almost half of voters thought the U.S. military has become weaker since Clinton took office; more than one-third believed



10 million people. One entrance.

For most Americans, buying a home is their biggest dream. Unfortunately, it can seem scary and complicated as well. That's why at the Fannie Mae Foundation, we have an ongoing commitment to help knock down the barriers to homeownership. In fact, we've already helped ten million families prepare to own homes with our informational guides.

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EDITORIAL

Elections are over...but the job is just beginning

Politics, like relationships, have stages. In the beginning, there is the attention. Months prior to elections, voters are bombarded with the political advertising by candidates proclaiming that they will be the miracle workers who will change the system and fight for all the issues that we the people believe are important to us.

They come out and shake hands; they hold political rallies to gather support; they make promises about what they will do if we, the good people, will elect them...and then the day comes. The commitment is made. That candidate is elected...and that's when things begin to cool off. After the initial honeymoon period of adjustment, usually our elected officials begin to have the "out of sight, out of mind" mentality and neglect begins to occur. The one thing that could hold the relationship together begins to become unstable—accountability.

Education, health care, and economic development are not just catch phrases to be used as slogans for political campaigns. These issues are the needs of the people in our community, and it is up to us to make sure that they are not ignored or put on the bottom of what politicians deem to be priorities. Letters are one of the most effective ways for constituents to let politicians know about their needs and displeasures.

Be a voice of accountability and communicate with your elected officials.

Failed implementation of black agenda

By Emory Curtis

What's the matter with the NAACP and our political leaders?

During this past political campaign where, before a single vote was counted, both Republicans and Democrats acknowledged that our votes in a few states would be crucial in selecting the legislative and executive leadership team for this country, neither the NAACP nor our political leaders publicly placed performance demands on the political parties and candidates as to our minimum expectations in certain issue areas.

There are front burner issues that ought to be at the front of any political campaign that wants and needs our support. The issues are fundamental equality issues that separate our needs from the masses. They are what is happening in the education arena where the majority of our youngsters are academically performing below the norm, and the justice arena where the extent of the problem is exhibited by the overrepresentation of us in prisons and on death rows.

Of course there are many other issues of concern that have a disproportionate negative impact on us because of our race. The picture and the lack of realistic affirmative action policies, the death of meaningful appointments, and the "Driving While Black" issue as well as penalties for hate crimes are all peculiar issues of concern to us.

However, those issues are all traceable back to the two main issues that ought to lead everyone's Black agenda—equality of the delivery of education to our youngsters and the equality in the delivery of justice.

Instead of placing demands in terms of issues on what should be the national Black Agenda, the NAACP and Black political, civic, and religious leadership went along with the political leash the Democratic Party and the Gore presidential team strapped around their necks.

Black Democratic party politicians happily trotted behind that party's leash because they knew that route would maximize the delivery of Black votes which in terms would place them at the front of the line for the benefits that election winners can deliver for their

kind, kin and political constituents who made it all happen in the first place.

I understand those actions, but I don't like them. They fall into the divisible benefits school of political actions. That's not my school.

My political actions, and the political actions of lots of other political outsiders, are focused on governmental actions in the mass benefits arena. In other words, our focus is on government policy that benefits masses of people, not just a few.

However, we all recognize that divisible benefits are what makes the political system work. That's why a decent reform of the political contribution system is good political talk, but not good political action.

If there was no possibility of payback and even payoffs (more than just getting your money back) there would be no multi-million dollar political campaigns. And the NAACP wouldn't have had a divisible benefit of \$5 million to be funneled through the organization from a single source to buy ads supporting the Democratic campaign (or knocking the Republicans).

The direct benefits or payoffs from that pass-through ad campaign would do little for the Black masses in terms of the Black agenda but it certainly would pay off for NAACP insiders.

Most will just be invitations to big time functions where their pictures are taken hobnobbing with the top. Essentially, that is what the Clinton-Gore presidency delivered for the delivery of our votes for candidates and issues of their choosing.

And now, the supposedly "War on Drugs" is the reason so many of our young men are in prison for being caught on the retail end of the illegal drug industry while the wholesale delivery of drugs continues unabated. As a result, from all reports, the only aspect of the drug problem that has decreased is the cost on the street for drugs with higher purity.

The political support for the Republicans and Democrats are so close that our leadership ought to get action on main agenda items for our people. We should expect no less.

When voting becomes a felony

Al Gore and George W. Bush could each use an extra few million votes. Funny thing is able bodied citizens want to vote. They're out there. Sure, they're out there in San Quentin and Sing Sing and for now, they can't vote. Across these 50 United States, there are 4 million disenfranchised felons who can't vote by state law. Look a little closer and about 13% of all African-American men can not vote by their communities. And by the way, in New Jersey 16 to 18 percent of African Americans can't vote due to their felony status. In Florida the total is as high as 1 in 3. And we're filling up 24-hour newsfeeds over a mere hundreds of votes? Feeling like the sunshine state, doesn't look that sunny anymore? A lot of people are saying that these days.

Florida is one of eleven states that generally disenfranchises all felons for life. Most states disenfranchise probationers or parolees. We're in the middle of making history with the election debate of November 7, 2000 and it all hinges on a state that has gained steam in recognizing a felon's right to vote. Why? There are 450,000-525,000 Floridians who have been denied their voting rights. Here's a scenario worth studying as to why: an 18 year old first-time offender convicted of writing a bad check loses the right to vote in Florida for life. Can you believe it?

The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C. organization that promotes alternative sentencing programs, reports that in 47 states and the District of Columbia, all convicted adults in prison are denied voting rights while incarcerated. Thirty-two states also deny parolees the right to vote. 29 states deny felons on probation the right to vote and in 13 states ex-offenders lose their right to vote for life. Only Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts allow prisoners



By Candace Kelley Matlock

convicted of felonies to vote.

Many states have taken up the battle to put votes back in the hands of millions.

Delaware recently passed legislation that will automatically restore the right to vote five years after a felon is released from prison. In September, a suit was filed in federal court in Florida challenging the constitutionality of the states' permanent disenfranchisement of ex-felons. The suit claims that the law is designed to discriminate against African-Americans. Meanwhile, in Congress, Representative John Conyers of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee is pushing a bill that

would pre-empt state laws and allow all ex-felons, after completing their sentences, to vote in federal elections.

Some states that giving prisoners the right to vote, especially in Florida would have surely put Al Gore in the White House. But if you look a little closer it is a paradoxical situation. It was the Clinton-Gore administration and criminal justice system that locked up African-Americans wholesale, mostly for drug offenses.

We can even blame the Ralph Nader factor, ballot box shenanigans or whatever you want, but the tough on crime policies that both Gore and Bush have supported and groomed have come back to be tough on them.

And after it's all said and done this is about someone who is not willing to follow the law, has a right in making the laws for everyone else? You decide.

Bush wrong to attack government

By U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.)

As the presidential election continues, let's take a look at the final days of George W. Bush's campaign, during which he crisscrossed the country attacking Al Gore as a proponent of Big Government. Since the beginning, George W. Bush has declared that he is on a crusade against "Big Government" and "Washington solutions." In response, Gore states that he, too, is against Big Government. In fact, the number of federal employees actually shrunk by 300,000 during the Clinton-Gore Administration. Gore's response has done little to stop Bush's attacks on Gore and support a crusade against Big Government. Despite his broad attack on government, Bush has made few specific proposals for making government smaller.

In the end, Bush's vague rhetorical attacks lead me to question, "what is Big Government, and why does George W. Bush oppose it?" One way to define Big Government is by how the government spends money. In the 2000 fiscal year, the largest federal expenditures were for Social Security (\$403 billion), national defense (\$278 billion), Medicare and Medicaid (\$316 billion) and interest on the debt (\$220 billion), largely attributable to massive defense spending during the 1980's. Together, these items account for 68 percent of the federal budget.

Despite his avowed hatred of Big Government, Bush proposed to spend more for these programs, not less. He proposed to spend tens of billions of additional dollars on Medicare and national defense. Bush's budget also would increase federal expenditures for interest payments by waiting until 2016 to pay off the national debt, four years later than Al Gore proposes.

Perhaps Gov. Bush's attacks on Big

Government stemmed from the large number of federal programs. After all, the government builds our roads and airports; ensures food safety; protects our environment; provides nutrition and health care for poor children; manages national parks, forests, wilderness areas and refuges; funds education; protects consumers from commercial fraud; provides care for our veterans; and enforces civil rights and anti-discrimination laws. However, to my knowledge, Bush has not proposed cuts to any of these programs.

Maybe the key to Bush's rhetoric lies in his

After all, the government builds our roads and airports; ensures food safety; protects our environment; provides nutrition and health care for poor children...

opposition to Washington solutions. Washington has provided solutions to many of the problems that have confronted our nation. Social Security is a Washington solution to seniors living in poverty. Medicare is a Washington solution to seniors having inadequate access to health care. Federal banking and securities laws are a Washington solution to the big business practices that led to the savings and loan crisis. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws are Washington solutions. So are the G.I. bill, truth-in-lending laws, student loans and civil rights laws. Again, I am unaware of any Bush proposal to cut or end these programs.

On a personal note, I spent the early years

of my life fighting for federal civil and voting rights laws. State governments actively opposed our struggle for the right to vote. To eat in the same restaurants, sleep in the same hotels and attend the same schools as "whites," George Wallace and others argued for "states' rights" and denounced Washington solutions. Thankfully, "Big Government" decided to intervene. The federal government ended Jim Crow, outlawed racist state laws, and granted all Americans the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Civil Rights Movement was not the first time that Big Government stood up for ordinary citizens. Hopefully, it will not be the last. In the early part of this century, Big Government passed labor laws that outlawed sweatshops, established the minimum wage, and ended the practice of making young children spend sixty hours a week working in dangerous factories. Big Government also stood up to tobacco companies that lied about the addictiveness and health threat posed by cigarettes. Most recently, Big Government is holding Firestone accountable for knowingly selling dangerous tires to consumers.

What is Big Government? It is Social Security, Medicare, veterans programs, education and environmental protection. Big Government is regulatory agencies fighting to protect the health and safety of the American people. Big Government even put a man on the moon.

I recognize that it was George Bush's right to travel the country disparaging Big Government. We should ask Gov. Bush to explain his rhetoric. What does he have against Big Government programs like Social Security and Medicare? Does he support these programs, or does he want to let them wither on the vine?

Florida's Fuzzy Math: The people have spoken, yet now the people must suffer

By Lloyd Williams

Early on election night, soon after the polls closed in Florida, the television networks, one after another in quick succession, ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, Fox, etc., awarded the state to Al Gore. They did not make this projection based on guesstimates but on the basis of ordinarily very reliable exit polls.

In fact, each network, ostensibly, relies on the scientific polling services of its own public opinion company skilled in determining the results by asking voters who they voted for. These various pollsters relay results to their media clients only when they have gathered a sufficient sample to make their prediction a statistical certainty.

Then and only then, will a network declare a projected winner, because they don't want eggs on their faces. But, for some reason, in the case of the Florida results, we are being asked to accept an, "Oops, we blew it, excuse."

Is it really possible that all of these public opinion companies got it right in 49 states, and all got it wrong in the case of Florida? This may be why everyone is questioning whether the Florida vote may have been tampered with. It doesn't take paranoia but merely common sense to suspect that something's rotten in the state of Florida.

Why, for instance, did candidate George W. Bush, weigh-in immediately, so simply and confidently, right after the Florida projections for Gore? Was he privy to some inside information? Why didn't he share his sources if he knew better than all the professional pollsters? The Bush behavior, at the very least, was cer-

tainly uncharacteristically presumptuous for a presidential hopeful as the votes rolled in.

I remember thinking, right as it was happening, that it was strange for Bush to stage this impromptu press-op, as if he already knew what the results would be. But after all, his brother, Jeb, is the Governor of Florida, so he should know. Was someone cooking the books in a back room? Finally, I understand what George Bush meant when he talked during the campaign about fuzzy math.

Why anyone is blaming the pollsters or the networks is beyond me. Talk about shooting the messenger! Thank God for these safeguards of democracy. How this election was contaminated I have no idea. This is talk of profile plots of blacks by state troopers, missing vote machines, confusing ballots which switched Gore and a third party candidate and hassles for voters without photo ID.

But something happened between the vote and the official count, because early on election night all the pollsters gave the state to Gore. It was never presented as a

question of whether Gore would take the state, but only a question of by how much. And the pundits even took turns on every station telling us how African-Americans and the elderly and The Jews and labor had turned out in record numbers in Florida.

While the TV talking heads were paying lip service to the theme of "getting out the vote," somebody tried to flush America's ever elusive commitment to democracy right down the toilet. But the bumbling, political plumbers weren't quite able to make the electorate this time. So, at least we have a chance to roll up our sleeves and see if there are any fingerprints left on the smoking plunger.

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By Diane Blackmon

Let us not be weary in doing right, for in due season we shall reap. If we faint not, we have therefore opportunity, let us do good to all men. Especially, to those who are of the household of faith. — Galatians 6:9-10

The Stellar Awards Nominees Are...

This year's Stellar Awards were recently announced for the 2001 Stellar Awards being presented in Atlanta, GA on Jan. 16, 2001.

The nominees for the Traditional Gospel Group or Duo of the Year:

The Williams Brothers, The Canton Spirituals, Luther Barnes, The Sunset Jubiliaries, Brenda Waters and Rev. Michael Mark. In the race for Traditional Male Vocalist of the Year are: Norman Hutchins, Rev. Gerald Thompson, Rev. James Moore, Family and Friends and Carlton Pearson. Traditional Female Vocalist of the Year nominees are: Lilian Lily, Margaret Allison, Dorothy Norwood and Brinda Waters. Looking at the nominees for Traditional CD of the Year we have: The Rev. James Moore, Family and Friends "Live From Detroit," The Canton Spirituals with "The Live Experience," The Williams Brothers "The Concert," and the Mississippi Mass Choir's "Emmanuel."

And for the Traditional Choir of the Year: Chester Baldwin & The Music Ministry Mass Choir, Bishop Clarence McClelland Presents the Harvest Fire Mega Mass Choir, Carlton Pearson and The Brooklyn Tabernacle Mass Choir.

The Stellar Awards are produced by Central City Productions and will broadcast live. Check your local listings for showtime.

The anointed voice of Lashun Pace is truly a blessing

Discovering that she and her eight sisters all had vocal ability, Lashun Pace's mother formed the Pace Sisters. Going solo in 1988, Lashun has since won numerous awards for her gospel achievement over the years. Her new



CD, "Just Because God Said It" is a live recording and is a gospel collection item. Look for Lashun Pace to continue blessing us with great gospel music for years and years to come.

BeBe Winans' "Love And Freedom"

He is sibling number 7 of the famed Winans dynasty and life has been good for BeBe Winans. He has a successful career with his sister, CeCe and now he's doing his own solo thing with music super powerhouse, Motown Records. His current CD "Love And Freedom" features R&B singers including Stevie Wonder, Joe. Brian McKnight and Stephanie Mills. There is also a "Love And Freedom" holiday promotion taking place now through November. We are inviting readers and listeners to enter to win a state of the art DVD player plus BeBe Winans' "Love And Freedom" gift packs.

To enter send in post cards with the phrase, BeBe Winans "Love And Freedom" holiday contest, to: 3401 Barham Blvd., Suite #5, Los Angeles, CA 90068.

This week's top 5 hits:

1. "Right Here" — John P. Kee
2. "Hallelujah" — Miami Mass Choir
3. "U Turn Me" — Oscar Hayes
4. "That's What I Believe" — Dionne McClurkin
5. "Rejoice" — Shirley Caesar

Gospel salute to Neal Johnson

Gospel Great Willie Neal Johnson began singing at a very early age with his brothers and sisters. He later joined his father's group as a teenager and progressed to forming his own group Willie Neal Johnson and the

Gospel Keynotes.

The original members included Ralph McGehee, Rev. JD Talley, Charles Bailey, John Jackson, Lanza Jackson and Archie B. McGehee. They became one of gospel's premiere recording groups of the day. After 20 albums, Willie Neal Johnson and The Keynotes current CD "The Country Boy Goes Home" and it features Gospel greats — Andre Crouch, Timothy Wright and Paul Beasley.

Luther Barnes is part of gospel's musical legacy

Luther Barnes, discovered his musical talents by the age of seven and at the age of nine he was already performing with a group formed by his father, The Rev. E.C. Barnes of the "Rough Side Of The Mountain" fame. Luther is taking gospel music to new heights and levels from rural churches to the Broadway stage. His new CD, "Wherever I Go" which will be accompanied with a video is currently in production. He is also working on a new solo project due out soon. Keep your eyes and ears open for it.

NAS' sacred home for the holidays promotion & contest

This exciting contest and promotion is currently taking place on the Gospel Insider-Gospel Insider 2000 until Dec. 3. Listeners and readers are invited to enter the Jeff Majors "Sacred Home For The Holidays" promotion and become eligible to win a special Sacred Home For The Holidays, to spend with your family and friends.

To enter send a postcard to: "Sacred Family Holiday," 3401 Barham Blvd., Suite #5, Los Angeles, CA 90068, Jeff Majors "Sacred Holiday" CD is available on NAS Music and CD's.

RELIGION

Pathmark Gospel Choir competition and Apollo Theater benefit announced

In celebration of February as Black History Month, Pathmark Stores is taking title sponsorship of the National Gospel Choir Competition at the crossroads of the world — New York City's 42nd Street Grand Central Terminal. The Feb. 17 afternoon rounds in Grand Central's historic Vanderbilt Hall are free and open to the public, including a 4:00 PM concert by the choirs chosen as the top three competitors. Final rounds take place in the evening as the centerpiece of a star-filled gospel concert at the famous Apollo Theater on 125th Street the heart of Harlem U.S.A. Tickets to the evening event help support the Apollo Foundation.

Schools, churches, community, civic and even corporate gospel choirs of every age and number are urged to enter for a wide range of prizes, topped by a

\$5,000 grand prize, with \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third. Entry forms can be obtained by calling Nana Owusu toll-free 866-893-1812 or by logging on to www.Gospel1500.com. Audio audition tapes must accompany all entries, to be postmarked by Dec. 15, 2000. Space is limited. Selection of winners will be made by a distinguished panel of judges from the African-American community.

As title sponsor of the Pathmark Gospel Choir Competition, Pathmark builds on its strong relationship with urban consumers. It is well known as the company that brings

better shopping to inner city neighborhoods, hires and promotes ethnic associates, and supports minority start-up vendor companies. In May, the Pathmark Multicultural Arts Festival, one of the largest ethnic events in the country, opens for a 10th season held over nine weeks in Philadelphia and New York City and in New Jersey's Jersey City, Paterson and Perth Amboy.



Two black church fires in two days are suspicious

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — State agents are investigating two suspicious fires in as many days at predominantly black churches.

The fire last Tuesday morning at Century United Methodist Church in Hartsville caused about \$35,000 in damage, while a fire damaged two rooms at the Harvesters Outreach Ministries in Greenville last Monday.

Fire Chief Larry Morabito said the fire in Harbortville appeared to be intentionally set. He said the blaze began in several different places.

Parker Fire District Chief Richard Jones would not say how the Greenville fire started.

The State Law Enforcement Division is looking into both blazes.

Black leaders: Huckabee's actions louder than words

By James Jefferson Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Many black folks are highly religious, apt to put more stock in the words of a preacher than a politician.

When the preacher's a politician, chances are he'll get some attention in the black community — even if he's a Republican, which might explain why Gov. Mike Huckabee garnered close to half of the black vote in his successful 1998 race for governor.

A number of Huckabee appointments, to boards and commissions and in particular to the bench, have furthered the governor's inroads to the most strident of Democratic supporters.

In recent months, though, the governor's words may have spoken louder than his actions to take the edge off Huckabee's connection

with black voters, whose support could be helpful if he faces a serious challenge in 2002.

Huckabee recently berated black legislators who challenged the successful ballot initiative he supported for spending Arkansas' \$1.6 billion tobacco settlement, suggesting that greed was their motivation.

Then the governor referred to attorneys representing the Lake View School District in a lawsuit challenging Arkansas' formula for funding public schools as "money-hungry lawyers trying to become instant mega-millionaires on the backs of taxpayers and school children."

The lawyers, who are black, filed seeking \$32.5 million in legal fees for eight years of work that netted schools at least \$130 million in new state money after a judge declared the funding formula unconstitutional.

Civil Rights leaders reunite to honor activist Hosea Williams

ATLANTA — Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King III, Dick Gregory, among other SCLC Veterans and Civil Rights workers recently reunited in Atlanta, Georgia to honor the legendary civil rights activist, Rev. Hosea Williams. The reunion coincided

with the "Get Out The Vote 2000" campaign.

With the use of an overflow room and standing room only, nearly 1,000 people attended the event, held in the sanctuary of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.

"This is the first civil rights reunion of this magnitude in a long time. It not only comes on the heels of voter registration drives, but it also honors a legendary civil rights worker who has given so much of his life to the struggle, especially after Dr. Martin Luther King's death," said Georgia State Rep. Tyrone Brooks, president of Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials.

Williams is also well known for the "Feed The Hungry" campaign here. The Williams', under

the auspices of the Metro Atlanta SCLC, organized the first "Feed The Hungry" dinner in 1970. Ten volunteers served 100 people at the first dinner. Last year, an estimated 115,000 was served. Also under his leadership, the Chatham County Crusade for Voters mounted Georgia's first non-violent direct action campaign. In 1962, Martin Luther King Jr. declared Savannah the most integrated southern city as a direct result of Williams.

This event not only honors the legendary Rev. Hosea Williams but also gives the Civil Rights Workers from the movement a chance to reflect, embrace and re-dedicate themselves to the social issues facing African-Americans worldwide.

Religious Calendar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

NEWARK — "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," a gospel play, will be performed at the Sarah Vaughn Concert Hall at 8 p.m. For more information call (973) 643-8013.

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Students to be disciplined for prank at College of New Jersey

EWING, N.J. (AP) — Two students at the College of New Jersey will be disciplined for posting a Halloween prank note that contained some apparent bias remarks, college officials said Thursday.

The note — taped to a safety window on the third floor of a construction site on campus — was found around 7:30 a.m. last Tuesday, said Jesse Rosenblum, associate vice president for college relations.

Rosenblum said the note, written in blue marker on a large white construction paper, read, "Kill all the white men — Class of '84, fun, beer, chix. Vai Helen & Vai." At the bottom right corner, the note read, "Please note: not an actual racist comment."

Rosenblum said two white male students — one a sophomore and the other a junior — admitted to committing the prank. They posted the note on Mischief Night, the night before Halloween, he said.

No criminal charges have been filed, but the two students will face disciplinary action through the campus judicial board, Rosenblum said. Possible penalties range from a simple reprimand to expulsion from the college, he said.

The college has been plagued by recent bias incidents. Police arrested sophomore Matthew J. Bakusure, of Holland, Pa., last month in connection with a threatening e-mail sent to a Jewish student. The e-mail contained anti-Semitic remarks and ended with the phrase "death to all Jews."

In the spring, some hate e-mail was sent to the Black Student Union, and leaflets for meetings of the Ku Klux Klan have also been seen around campus.

Residents flooded in August ask for dam repair funds

By Amy Westfield
Associated Press Writer

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — The Winona Lake dam held last August when torrential rains toppled others near here. It came time to repair its erosion, members of the homeowners association responsible for it didn't have the money.

"We've been living hand to mouth for 20 years," said Lake Winona City Association member John Scalzitti, who said the association fell behind on its property taxes to Jefferson Township so it could hire an engineer to assess the dam.

"We can't even afford, as a very small lake association, the cost of the inspection," he said.

Scalzitti and other residents battered by Aug. 12-14 flooding that destroyed roads, bridges and collapsed four dams appealed to lawmakers last Friday for funding.

The state acknowledged after the flooding strained many of New Jersey's 1,500 dams to the breaking point that it didn't expect emergency inspectors to regularly monitor dams, including 187 that are considered high hazards because they pose a threat to lives if they were to break.

State Sen. Robert E. Lintell, who chairs the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, has introduced a bill that sets aside \$135 million over five years to allow cities and private owners to refurbish dams and dredge lakes and streams.

Municipalities responsible for dams would receive grants, while private homeowners' associations would receive loans at 2 percent interest under the bill.

The bill would also require the state Department of Environmental Protection to hire nine inspectors.

Overwhelming support for, concern over sex offender notification

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A ballot question asking voters to allow the state to post details about convicted sex offenders on the Internet is likely to pass overwhelmingly in last Tuesday's voting.

But even many of the measure's supporters are concerned over the potential problems that publishing offenders' pictures, addresses and other personal information online might create.

The measure asks voters whether New Jersey can expand community notifications under Megan's Law, a law passed after the killing of 7-year-old Megan Kanka by a convicted sex offender who lived near her.

In nearly two dozen interviews Saturday, most people surveyed by The Associated Press said they plan to vote for the ballot question. But many also

expressed reservations about the law and possible unintended effects.

Some said they feared vigilance among neighbors finding out for the first time that a convicted sex offender has moved into their community. Others expressed concern that a crime committed at a young age could haunt a released offender for life.

But nearly all said these were worthwhile prices to pay in the interest of safety.

"I feel for the person that's released, but I also feel for parents," said Charles Barila of Woodliff Lake, who lives near a convicted sex offender. "I feel for the person that's released, but I also feel for parents."

Maria DaSilva is already familiar with Megan's Law, and the problems it can create.

Several houses in her Elizabeth neighborhood received letters from the police department stating that a convicted sex offender

I feel for the person that's released, but I also feel for parents.

Charles Barila
Resident of Woodliff Lake

lived nearby, giving his address and a small photo.

"The letter said not to confront him, or we'll be prosecuted," said DaSilva. "He lives two blocks from us."

James Verbit of Paramus plans to vote against the measure, calling it a political gesture that will only make things worse.

"I'm as concerned about sex offenders as the next person," said the father of two. "But this

country is already paranoid about sex offenders. You could be giving that individual a death sentence because some wacko might decide he doesn't belong on this earth, down a six-pack and go kill him."

Fear of vigilance is one of the reasons the current law is so narrowly drawn. Depending on how serious a danger authorities deem a convicted offender, only those living in the immediate area are generally notified. And it is against the law to disseminate information to those who are not supposed to receive it.

But neighbors have frequently given the information to the media, which sometimes has published or broadcast it, despite warnings from authorities not to do so. The measure on the ballots would eliminate those problems by making the information available to anyone with access to the Internet, among other sources.

"We should be able to know this," said Rosie Ferreira of Union. "I'd like to know if someone like that comes around. I have little kids."

"I think it's a great idea," said Isabel Costa of Elizabeth. "Everyone should know who lives around them. I have young nieces and nephews, and if someone who's not trustworthy comes into the neighborhood, they should know. People don't change. They did it once, they could do it again."

Verbit said a crime committed at a young age could haunt a person for the rest of his life.

"Say you have a 17-year-old who assaults a younger girl," he said. "Now he's a convicted sex offender with this law for the rest of his life. How's he going to get a job? Who's going to ever hire him? I'm not sure there is a solution to this question."

Probe of restaurant food safety finds serious problems

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Weak state regulations for restaurant food safety and inconsistent enforcement of those rules can leave diners at even the classiest New Jersey eateries at risk of food-borne illnesses, according to a published report.

Sanitary inspection reports from some of New Jersey's 16,000 restaurants cite poor hygiene and food-handling practices that could make patrons sick to their stomachs, figuratively and literally, the Sunday Star-Ledger of Newark reported. The problems were found at greasy spoons and posh restaurants alike.

"Here everyone is getting worried about one case of the West Nile virus when we have people getting ill from food poisoning every day," said Drew Harris, president of the nonprofit New Jersey State Public Health Association, which monitors public health issues.

So state health officials are cooking up tougher regulations, modeled on the more-stringent recommendations of the federal Food and Drug Administration, and hope to propose new rules by next year.

Each year, about 2 million illnesses in New Jersey and an estimated 76 million across the country are caused by food — through improper handling in restaurants, at food processing companies or in the home. Nationwide, more than 320,000 cases send people to the hospital and nearly 5,200 Americans die each year from food-borne illnesses, many of which are preventable, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 1997, the Clinton administration launched a nationwide food safety initiative that included FDA inspections of more than 900 food businesses around the country. Surprisingly, the inspectors found that fast food restaurants and hospital cafeterias had a better rate of compliance with the agency's guidelines than full-service restaurants; the restaurants flunked the food safety standards 40 percent of the time.

Part of the problem in New Jersey, records show, is that state regulations meant to prevent food-

borne illnesses aren't strict enough.

FDA guidelines, for instance, urge inspecting restaurants at least twice a year, while New Jersey only requires an annual inspection. Records show many local health departments don't even do that, the Star-Ledger reported.

Another key difference between the state and federal rules is that New Jersey lets restaurants prepare some foods at temperatures that aren't high enough to kill all disease-causing organisms, and refrigerate other foods at warmer temperatures than the federal recommendation.

In addition, there is no uniform system for gauging the severity of sanitary violations in restaurants, like the one in New York City that has classifications such as critical or public health hazards, automatically triggering sanctions and re-inspections. Worse yet, records show that some local health departments in New Jersey rarely or never list unsanitary restaurants with fines or sanctions.

"We've been reviewing the food code, and we're in the process of amending our code so we can adopt the FDA code, Ken Kalama, who oversees inspectors by the state food and milk safety program, told the newspaper.

Typical problems spotted during inspections include employees not practicing good hygiene, inadequate hand-washing facilities for employees, the presence of dishes or other pests, dirty or broken utensils or cooking surfaces, improperly disposed rubbish and foods not properly labeled.

When the newspaper examined the most recent inspection reports from 39 top-rated restaurants — those getting a score of at least 25 in Zagat's 2000 consumer survey — it found 300 violations of the state sanitary code. Only four of the restaurants had no violations.

"There needs to be a different approach to the practice of public health," said Richard Matzer, manager of the state's Office of Local Health.

Experts say that must include more money for the many underfunded local health departments, which get almost all their money from local taxes.

"It might be realistic to require more stringent controls and more frequent inspections," said Frank Grist, head of the New Jersey Local Health Officers Association. "It's not a matter of whether we should be doing it or not. Of course we should be doing it. But the funding has to be there."

7-year-old shot in head by 8-year-old brother; stepbrother flees

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — An 8-year-old boy accidentally shot his 7-year-old brother to death, and when their 29-year-old stepbrother came home, he grabbed the gun and a stash of drugs and fled instead of calling for help, authorities said.

Shakur Fite, 7, died from a gunshot wound to the head at University Hospital last Thursday, hospital spokesman Rogers Ramsey said.

Shakur and his brother had been left alone and were playing with a 9 mm gun in their bedroom when it went off last

Tuesday, police said.

Ian Forte, the boys' legal guardian, came home and instead of calling for help, grabbed the gun and a knapsack filled with marijuana and cocaine and fled in order to dispose of the weapon and drugs, police said.

Three plainclothes officers saw Forte running from the area, chased him down and arrested him.

Police seized 625 bags of marijuana, 283 vials of cocaine and about two ounces of crack from the home.

Forte became the legal

guardian of the boys when his mother, who adopted the boys, died, police said.

Ian Forte was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and drug and weapons possession, and was freed on \$50,000 bail.

A call to a number listed in his name was not immediately returned.

Prosecutors were considering whether to file additional charges in connection with the boy's death, a spokeswoman for the Essex County prosecutor's office said.

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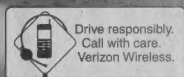
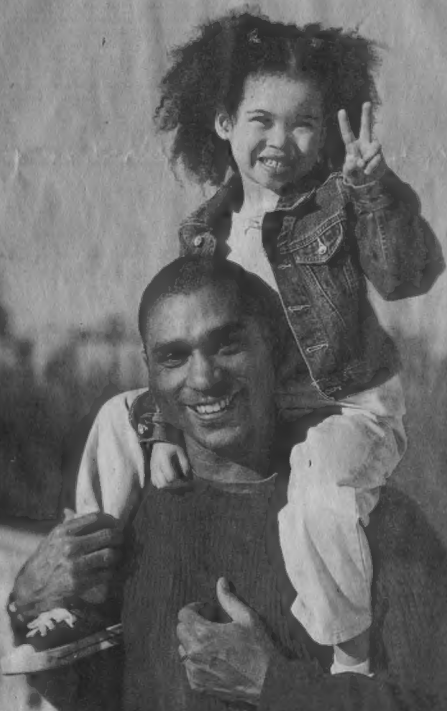
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Newark bids to soften blow of property revaluation

NEWARK — Assemblyman William Payne's legislation that would enable the City of Newark to utilize previously authorized local payroll and parking taxes to help the city cushion the blow of a court-ordered property revaluation was released recently from the Assembly Local Government Committee.

Payne's proposal also would eliminate a complex and convoluted formula that had been developed to phase in the city's property revaluation over five years. Instead, Payne's bill would enable Newark's city council to develop a straight five-year revaluation phase in. This change would help those residents who get hit by higher tax burdens under the revaluation.

Payne's bill (A-2906) would repeal and amend provisions in a law that was enacted last year to help

Newark carry out its first revaluation in nearly 40 years.

"This revaluation may be overdue, but it should not be onerously painful," said Payne (D-Essex). "With these proposed changes in the revaluation law, the city will be better able to avoid a budget crisis and city residents won't be as negatively impacted. This is about making a bad situation a little better. This is about averting a potential fiscal disaster."

Payne's legislation is based on compromises that were recently hammered out between Newark officials and the state Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Finance.

The core provision of Payne's measure would eliminate controversial language that had been inserted into the law enacted last year permitting Newark to phase in a revaluation over five years the first of its kind in New Jersey history. The controversial language prohibited the city from collecting "special taxes" while in revaluation noncompliance.

The bill would implement a twenty percent phase in or out over the five-year period once the revaluation was implemented.



Savoring fall sports: The Area 3 Special Olympics Fall Sports Expo, held recently at Gill St. Bernards School in Peapack-Gladstone, tested athletes' skills in golf, bocce, soccer and croquet. Area 3 Special Olympics, covering Morris, Sussex and Warren counties, is a voluntary, non-profit organization that offers a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with mental retardation and other related developmental disabilities. The Olympic-style competition helps athletes develop strength, coordination and athletic skills, as they compete and achieve success. At the Area 3 Special Olympics Fall Sports Expo, Special Olympics athlete Terry Sutton, right, practices her golf swing under the watchful eye of Anthony Field of Dover, a Special Olympics volunteer who attends Dover High School.

Plainfielders lend a hand for 'Make a Difference Day'

PLAINFIELD, NJ — Several Plainfield organizations took part in the event, including: the Department of Recreation, which provided golf lessons and kite building and flying fun at Milt Campbell Field. An appearance was also made, by Thomas Pranio, and other P.M.G.A. members. Participants received hand-outs of the evolution of Golf, club locations, and membership rules.

Plainfield Neighborhood Empowerment held a community clean up entitled "slam-dunk the junk" at 10 elementary schools. The events focus also included community awareness of community of this program.

Police Community Activity League registered youth for next season's track & field and P-Cal programs for youth ages 5-19 at the Rock Ave. Baseball Complex. This program is coached and directed by local volunteers to prepare all athletics throughout the year.

Plainfield Shut-In Council, one of the oldest local volunteer organizations in the area, made Thanksgiving baskets for the center-piece dinner setting at Runnels

Specialized Hospital and for other sick and shut-in in the area. Throughout the year this organization volunteers at least 5 hours per week, providing little parties, serving sandwiches, punch and pastry, while playing games to lift the spirits of all without visitors, and family.

Senior Service Bldg., with a mission of improving health services to elderly took applications from senior citizens who wished to apply for PAAD program at the local Senior Service Building. This program helps with medical assistance that maybe not provided in their current HMO/Medicare program. This program will also assist with current Utility payment/ assistance program to all eligible.

The Department of Health distributed free literature, and hand-outs to young and old about the awareness of the AIDS epidemic in the West End of Plainfield. The department of health sought to address the high percentage of AIDS cases affecting black communities.

Make a Difference Day proved to be fun and successful.

Record number vote

Continued from page A-1

vote in those elections tended to run modestly or significantly under what the Black voting age population was. This year, in terms of the efforts that have been made, there are six states that I have studied where the Black share of the vote was higher than the Black voting age population and there were another four states where the Black share equaled the voting age population. There is clear evidence that in many different places Black turnout increased substantially in this election and the efforts were successful."

Black leaders repeatedly told the NNPA that despite the outcome, African Americans must continue to grow in the electoral process.

"We have moved to a new level in voter participation," said Dr. Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women. "We can't let this stop us. We have the leadership in the congress and we have to



Dr. Dorothy Height

keep our own agenda moving. It will be hard but we have had hard times before and we have more work to do to keep the gains that we made in the past and to keep our agenda moving forward."

Angela Brown, Co-Director Youth Task Force in Atlanta, Ga., noted that the spirit of election night should carry on. "I think that this is the one race where we did turn out and need to continue to come out. It's important because we made the difference. The Black vote was critical. We made the race as critical as it was. It's easy to think about retreating and 'why bother' but this is why we must get in the fight. It's a different kind of fight now."

Julienne Malveaux, a syndicated columnist and economist, noted that the Black vote is also voted for economic security.

"African Americans were energized by the possibility of continuing eight years of peace and prosperity especially since this prosperity has only begun to reach inner cities in these last two years," Malveaux said. "This energy propelled the phenomenal turnout that took place in this 2000 presidential election. We influenced outcomes all over the country, but the presidential race remains in question."

Bovitis noted his awe at the turnout alongside his concern over the present challenge for the White House. "This election is totally inexplicable," he said. "All indicators show a definite increase in the Black vote, which was substantial in some places. One of the big reasons for Al Gore's success and he was successful because he got more votes than Bush. was the big turnout of Black voters. If Bush ends up winning the

presidency, I have no idea how the country will react to someone being elected president who got fewer votes than his opponent."

Jared had the grades and the determination. Now he's got the tuition, too.

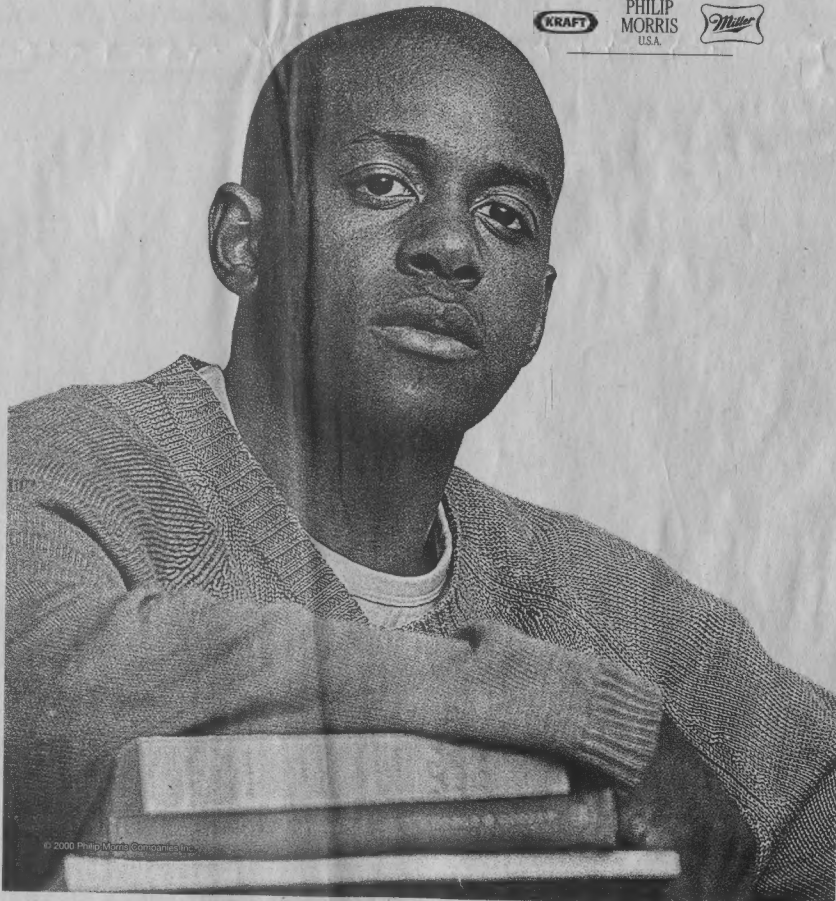
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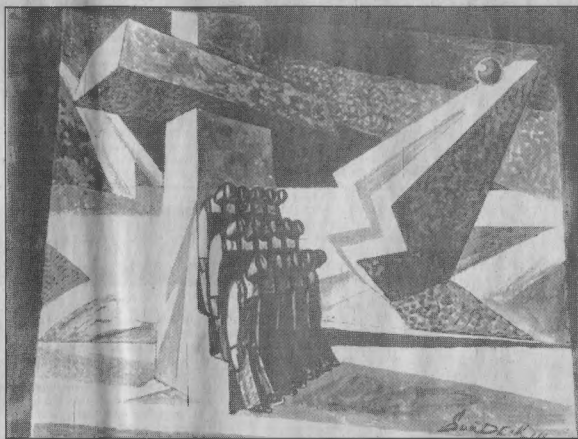


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Zimmerli Art Museum reopens with a multitude of new exhibits



Design of the backdrop for the Song of the Workers Association, Serge Scudelskine, c. 1920. Gouache and ink on paper.

Photo: Jack Abraham

On Nov. 12, 2000, after more than a year of construction, the expanded and renovated Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey celebrated its grand reopening with an exciting array of special events, exhibitions, and public programs. The \$5 million transformation does more than provide much-needed gallery and storage space, assuring greater access to the Museum's dynamic and unusual holdings. It affirms the Zimmerli's reputation as a center of international art and culture serving Rutgers University and the state of New Jersey.

Based on collection size, gallery space, and budget, the newly expanded Zimmerli moves into the top 5 percent of all university art museums in the U.S. The sheer size of the Zimmerli's distinctive collection—numbering 60,000 works of art—makes it the third largest of all U.S. university museum collections, just behind Harvard and Yale.

The architectural firm KSS of Princeton, New Jersey designed and oversaw the Zimmerli's expansion. The firm's special expertise in college and university work, plus a seventeen-year relationship with Rutgers University, provided KSS with a unique perspective. According to KSS partner Michael Shatken, one of the architects' most important goals was "to unite old and new in the most effective manner." This has been achieved with stunning success.

Thanks to KSS's ingenious solutions, the new exhibition space will be significant, nearly doubling in size, from 20,600 to 35,000 square feet. The multi-purpose spaces for public programs will more than triple in size, from 800 to 2,600-square feet, permitting the Museum to offer more and better public programming for children and adults alike.

The expansion will also introduce the Museum's spectacular new two-story wing. It will be dedicated exclusively to the world's largest and most important collection of its kind, The Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union, 1956 to 1986.

The newly renovated spaces will make the Zimmerli experience available to the entire family at once. Stimulating activities and games have been added to the ongoing series of exhibitions, concerts, and lectures, the convenient Z Cafe, and the well-stocked

Museum Store.

The impetus for "Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective" was the Zimmerli's 1980 acquisition of more than 200 of Mazur's prints, monotypes, drawings, pastels, and paintings; making it the largest public collection of his work.

One of many traveling exhibitions organized by the Zimmerli, this show opens along with the new expanded Zimmerli.

"Michael Mazur: A Print Retrospective" opened at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston last spring, then went on to the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University. After its three-month run at the Zimmerli, through February 16, 2001, it will move again; this time to the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

The exhibit covers a forty-year span of Mazur's involvement with printmaking and includes both his editioned work and the significant body of unique prints for which he is internationally recognized. Throughout his career, Mazur has been a pioneer in printmaking processes, particularly the monotype medium. A leader in the monoprint and monotype movement of the 1970s, Mazur consistently advocated the breaking down of barriers separating various art-making processes and media, and his innovative techniques played a major role in bringing this

about. By experimenting with texture, printing on silk and multi-paneled screens, and manipulating gigantic plates to create monumentally-sized prints, Mazur led the way to a new kind of versatility and visual expression in printmaking.

Known for his elegant handling of line and tone, Mazur has explored numerous formats for works on paper throughout his career. His work, which draws upon a variety of historical and stylistic sources, encompasses all print-making techniques and has established Mazur as a "mark-maker" par excellence.

The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum is located at 71 Hamilton St. in New Brunswick, NJ.

For more information about the Zimmerli Museum call (732) 932-7237 or visit: The museum's hours are Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and weekends noon-5 p.m.



Canto III (frontispiece) from the Inferno of Dante, Michael Mazur, 1993. Monotype, 30 x 22 inches.

Photo by courtesy of the artist.



The Sacrifice, Vadim Sidur, 1965. Aluminum.

Photo: Jack Abraham



Newark residents to appear on PBS program concerning caring for parents

Emmy Award-winning anchor Steve Adubato looks at the effect caring for aging parents has on the modern American family on month on Caucus New Jersey.

The program is part of the highly acclaimed "Families in Focus" series which examines the most crucial issues confronting the modern American family. Each program in the series features real people from different socioeconomic groups, ethnicities, and family types, discussing the real challenges they face in their lives.

Joining this discussion is Newark resident, Geneva Morrison, and her mother, 84 year-old Lena Bacote, who

moved from her home in Connecticut to live with her daughter.

"Many baby boomers are now being faced with not only caring for their children, but their parents as well," said Caucus host and executive producer Steve Adubato. "This balancing act often becomes stressful

and unmanageable for care givers and they need to know where to turn to for help."

The program can be seen at the following dates and times:

Caring for an Aging Parent, Part One

- NIN-Public Television Part One

Saturday 11/18 at 6:30 a.m.
Sunday 11/19 at 10 a.m.

Caring for an Aging Parent, Part Two

■ NIN-Public Television
Saturday 11/25 at 6:30 a.m.
Sunday 11/26 at 10:00 a.m.

Funding for "Families in Focus" has been provided by The Prudential Foundation, ShopRite, BD and The Russell Berrie Foundation.

For more information, visit the Caucus — New Jersey Web site at www.caucusnj.org. The "Families in Focus" series will air on various cable outlets throughout November. Check your local listings.

By Gwendolyn Baines

My husband wants a divorce, but I would die first!

Dear Gwendolyn:

Two years ago my husband and I began to have marital problems. First, it started when I became pregnant with our second child. He didn't want more children and neither did I, but it just happened.

Shortly thereafter, he started coming home late from work and on weekends I would seldom see him. He told me many times he stayed at a friend's house after watching movies and playing cards. He claimed he was too asleep to drive.

I really didn't believe any of his excuses, but went along like I was stupid of course. Then my mother told me he had indicated to her that he wanted a divorce. He said there was not another woman involved, but he was tired of being married.

Gwendolyn, I have no problem with divorcing him, but I am thinking of our children. I have a 4-year-old and a 15-month-old. He makes enough money and would be able to provide for us without difficulty.

I must admit that I do not love him anymore, but I was raised that a marriage is forever no matter how bad the situation gets. My friends are telling me I should not let him go. They profess to have seen him with a younger woman, but I told them I really didn't care.

Gwendolyn, do you think I should try to save the marriage?

Gladys

Ask Gwen

Dear Gladys:

What marriage?

He has already admitted that he no longer desires to be a married man, and you have admitted that you no longer love him. Other than for the sake of the children, I see no reason why the two of you should stay together. Even for the children, there are more psychiatrists proclaiming that teenage suicides often stem from the lack of love in the home. While they are small, it might be good to consider this an advantage. If the two of you divorced now, the children would be able to better adapt to the separation. Of course the 15-month-old will never know the difference, but there could be a problem for the 4-year-old if you continue to wait.

I understand about your religious belief, but life is short and precious. It should be enjoyed with or without a mate. I feel the two of you should have a

serious discussion. Your husband should not have conversed with your mother before talking with you. That's where two people go wrong. They go to everyone except for their mate for guidance, comfort and understanding.

I do want you to stop telling yourself that you would die before granting your husband a divorce. When you see crime reports on television and newspapers, take notice of many women who said they would die first - they did.

I would like to tell you to save the marriage, but I can't. Contrary to your religious belief, I want you to give serious thought to saving the marriage or saving yourself.

Gladys, think about it. When love has gone, there is no marriage to save.

Got a problem? Write to Gwendolyn Baines at P. O. Box 78246, Nashville, TN 37207 or email: gwen-baines@hotmail.com.

Holidays: Kwanzaa fills a void

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Vernellia Randall at first resisted the idea of celebrating Kwanzaa, which she regarded as a "made up" holiday. "But I finally decided that we're a made-up people, and this is a way of celebrating our positiveness," said Randall, descendent of African slaves and a professor of law at the University of Dayton.

Kwanzaa, a nonreligious celebration for black Americans, has only been around since the 1960s, so it lacks a long history or customs polished by time.

But Randall says she deeply felt the absence of her cultural history. "African-Americans have no connection to their history, no connection to their ties, even to their religion," she said. "Maybe it's like a person with amnesia. They may have a life now and know their immediate history, but there's a blank spot in their mind they can't access. That's what it's like hitting that brick wall where our cultural history should be."

So she adopted Kwanzaa after all, celebrating on each day from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 the principles: unity (umwa), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani).

Last year she celebrated with a circle of friends who each hosted a Kwanzaa night. "We had a ceremony and then shared with one another the meaning of the day. We talked about what it meant in our lives and how we could use it during the rest of the year."

She hosted the night for ujima, the first time she had the celebration at home. "That's my favorite. For as long as we remember and believe, any change that comes about is by collective work and responsibility."

But why has she decided to adopt this new tradition now?

"My sons are 23 and 29, so I'll have grandchildren on the way sometime in the future. I've gotten started now, and by the time they get to be 8 or 10 years old, we'll have this tradition that they'll always have known."

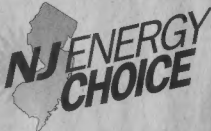
"The blank spot will just be for me."

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If you think you have been slammed or have questions about a supplier's license, call the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities at 1-800-624-0241.

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Heartbeat Calendar

ONGOING

PLAINFIELD — Mühlenberg Regional Auxiliary Medical Center is seeking out former patients of Garrett Keating M.D. to pay tribute at a gala on Dec. 1. For more information call (732) 832-1530

BELLEVILLE — (THROUGH DEC 31) Clara Maass Medical Center is extending the hours of the Kids Place Child Care Center to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and 4:30 p.m. on weekends. For more information call (973) 450-2116

NOVEMBER 8 & 15

NEW BRUNSWICK — Saint Peter's University Hospital offers Support Groups & Wellness Programs from 7-8:30 p.m. For further information call (732) 745-8528

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10-12

SPRINGFIELD — Priest Leeds State's National, Doris Sabbath Weekend Promotion. For more information call (973) 379-4535

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Wound Care Center at Saint Peter's University Hospital will be hosting a Foot Screening from 9 a.m. to noon in the Wound Care Center, 254 Easton Ave. New Brunswick, fifth floor of the main hospital. For more information, or to register call (732) 846-6199

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NEW BRUNSWICK — New Horizons Post Cancer Treatment Support Group from 7-8:30 p.m. For further information call 732-235-7557

Send your heartbeat calendar events to: City News Heartbeat, 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1-F, Newark, NJ 07102

FDA releases list of recalled corn products

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas food company has recalled nearly 300 products from taco shells to restaurant chips because they may contain corn grown from genetically modified seed that hasn't been approved for human consumption.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last Wednesday released a list of the products from Irving-based Mission Foods Co., including many varieties of tortillas, taco shells and snack chips sold through national supermarket chains and restaurants.

Mission Foods on Oct. 13 recalled all its products made with yellow corn after the genetically engineered corn was found in taco shells sold through Safeway stores.

The FDA's list includes tortillas and chips sold through Applebees and Wendy's restaurants, and taco shells carrying private labels of a number of supermarket chains, including Safeway, Food Lion, Kroger, IGA and Albertson's.

Officials with Mission Foods say they are having sales representatives check on compliance with the recall.

At issue is corn grown from StarLink seed developed by French pharmaceuticals company Aventis SA. It contains a protein designed to protect the corn from pests. While approved for use in animal feed, the corn has not been approved for human consumption because it may trigger allergic reactions.

The products were made with StarLink grown last year and mixed in with other corn that was sold to millers. Federal officials are concerned that some of this year's crop also may get into the food supply because they have been unable to trace about 1.2 million bushels, or 1.5 percent of the total StarLink harvest, that have been shipped from farms.

Prevent the flu this winter

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Amengroup wants to remind parents that the flu and cold season are fast approaching.

Without thinking about it, people probably touch something everyday that contains other people's germs. These germs often remain active on cold surfaces for long periods of time. If these people have colds or the flu, then other people may contract that illness. We suggest that one of the best ways for families to remain protected is to encourage children to wash their hands with hot water and soap.

- After touching counters, hand rails or seats outside the home
- After using the bathroom.
- Before touching food
- Before picking up a baby
- After changing a diaper.
- When coming in from the outside

You should also keep your hands away from the nose or mouth. To keep from spreading a

cold or the flu to others if you have it, cover your face when you cough or sneeze.

Another way to help prevent getting the flu is to get an annual flu shot. This will not eliminate the possibility of getting a cold, but it will decrease the probability of catching the flu. It is very important to get a flu shot when

Someone is over the age of 50. Someone has a chronic illness like heart problems, emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, kidney disease or diabetes.

For those who attract a cold or the flu, it is imperative that they take care of themselves. Without proper care, it takes longer to get well again. Germs can spread to other family members and there is a possibility of catching bronchitis or pneumonia.

Pneumonia can result in a shortness of breath, chest pain, fever, chills, or coughing up blood. A vaccine shot can be taken to help prevent pneumonia from the flu. People over 50 years of age should get a flu shot every year. Younger people with a chronic illness such as diabetes, kidney disease, emphysema, asthma, etc. should also get an annual flu shot. If you do become sick, drink plenty of liquids, get plenty of rest and get advice from your doctor.

Study shows Medicare no guarantee of adequate care

By Lindsey Tanner
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Many Medicare beneficiaries are not getting the treatment they should be receiving, such as regular mammograms for breast cancer survivors and annual vision tests for diabetics, a study found.

It was not clear from the study whether the fault lies with the patients or with their doctors.

The study, reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, looked at 345,253 Medicare patients 65 and older.

Fewer than two-thirds received care for 14 out of 37 generally recommended procedures, including preventive care, diagnostic tests and hospitalization, the researchers reported.

Fewer than two-thirds of white breast cancer patients, who run a high risk of another cancer, received annual follow-up mammograms. Fewer than half of diabetics, who are prone to eye problems, received annual vision tests.

The lapses occurred even though the treatments were covered by Medicare.

Blacks, poor people and those living in rural areas were especially likely to be undertreated.

Blacks, poor people and those living in rural areas were especially likely to be undertreated.

Rand Corp. researchers

ly likely to be undertreated, said the researchers, from the Rand Corp. think tank in Santa Monica, Calif., and the Veterans Affairs Department.

The findings follow a state by state Medicare study published last month in JAMA that found widespread geographical disparities in care.

Edward L. Hanuman, a State University of New York health policy expert, said in an accompanying editorial that the Rand study

underscores "a compelling need to engage in painstaking studies of how treatment decisions are made."

The study did not examine the reasons for the gaps in care. But Dr. Steven Asch of the West Los Angeles VA Hospital who led the study, said the possibilities include poorer-quality physicians, patients' inability or unwillingness to follow doctors' instructions and discrimination by doctors.

Asch said the findings suggest that inadequate care contributed to some cases to worse outcomes. For example, blacks were hospitalized more often for congestive heart failure than whites, perhaps because they had poorer treatment or preventive care or less access to care, he said.

The researchers examined Medicare claims data from 1994-96 but Asch said a lack of adequate care among beneficiaries remains a problem.

March of Dimes 'making a difference'

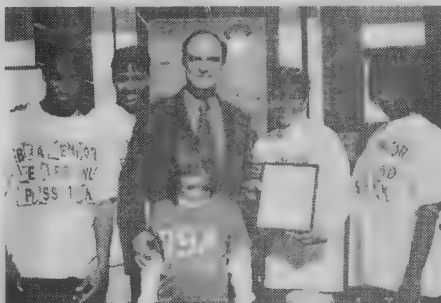
Belleville — In the state of New Jersey, more than 90,000 children are uninsured. This means that their health or even their lives could be at risk should they need specialized medical attention. On Oct. 28, — National Make a Difference Day — the March of Dimes made an effort to change these unfortunate statistics by teaming up with Kmart to inform parents that their children may be eligible for good, free or low-cost insurance coverage.

March of Dimes volunteers and celebrity guests were present at the Belleville Kmart to hand out NJKidCare flyers to shoppers. In attendance was March of Dimes year 2000 National Ambassador Mackenzie Brooks of Ridgewood, New Jersey; her father, Richard Brooks; volun-

teers from PSEG and the Ready Foundation, and State Senator Donald DiFrancesco. In 1997, the senator was the primary sponsor for the "Children's Health Care Coverage Act, which established the state match of federal funds to support the NJKidCare insurance program for uninsured children.

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health organization. Its mission is to prevent birth defects and infant mortality through the funding of programs in education, community services, research and advocacy. The March of Dimes is dedicated to giving every child a healthy start in life.

For more information about NJKidCare call 1-877-KIDS-NOW or the March of Dimes at (973) 882-0700



From left to right front: Arthur Hooper and Kristina Jones Ready Foundation volunteer, NJ Senate President Donald DiFrancesco; seven-year old Mackenzie Brooks, Cheryl King, Ready Foundation Coordinator and Maria Perera, PSEG

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ENTERTAINMENT BLURBS

Movie Review

The Broken Hearts Club

Urban fashion mogul to launch record label Hostile takeover records

BROOKLYN, NY—Urban fashion pioneer, Maurice Malone, announces the launch of his record label, Hostile Takeover Records. Maurice Malone has been the top African American owned & operated clothing line for the past eleven years and Hostile Takeover records will become an extension of the Maurice Malone Empire.



Malone



"My line has always been a direct correlation to music as it relates to the urban culture," says Malone. "Good music is an extension of the clothes you are wearing."

Malone's hometown of Detroit, Detroit Diamond brings a unique form of emotion and rhythm to hip-hop. Their lyrical abilities will undoubtedly be identified because of their true talent and quality, just as the Maurice Malone name in fashion has been branded.

Maurice Malone is a true representation of the urban market with notoriety in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Malone has proven that it is a force that has shaped urban markets over the years. Tapping into the urban market further via music, which is an additional \$550 Billion Dollar Market will be second nature to Malone.

And just as hip-hop apparel has now become associated with a particular artist, Malone has already proven that he has staying power. "Having a hip-hop artist wear a logo laden shirt on MTV can help, but the critical test is

what happens in the retail-selling floor," says record label executive DuQuan Brown. "While several urban fashion lines will be trying to create a total environment with special flooring and video walls to associate their artist with the clothing line, we will just brand our artists into our line and stores across the world."

Branding the face of urban culture, Hostile Takeover Records will be based out of Brooklyn, NY.



Gay romantic comedy features familiar faces in unfamiliar clinches

By Kam Williams

The Broken Hearts Club has been billed as the most thought-provoking gay film since The Boys in the Band. But the only thoughts it provoked in me was which actors might be gay in real life. This was because the movie is actually a relatively tame affair, amounting to little more than an extended television sitcom with a gay theme. No straight-on open mouth kisses, no joint nudity, no explicit love scenes. The production even feels like TV, given the presence of some of the medium's most recognizable faces, the only twist being that these familiar straight leads play it gay here.

Nia Long (The Best Man), remembered as Will Smith's love interest on NBC's Fresh Prince of Bel Air, stars as the lesbian lover of Mary McCormack (of ABC's Murder One). The balance of the ensemble cast is male and headed by small screen Superman Dean Cain, ever romantically-linked to the frustrated Lois Lane on ABC's Lois & Clark, Andrew Keegan (of Fox's Party of Five) and John Mahoney (of NBC's Frasier). Then there's big screen actors Timothy Olyphant (Scream 2) and Matt McGrath (Boys Don't Cry).

The Broken Hearts Club was written and directed by 27-year-old wunderkind Greg Berlanti, executive producer of Dawson's Creek, which might explain all the soap opera Sturm and Drang over nonsense. I don't know about you, but it takes more than ranting, lispy, over-the-top queens to engage my brain. I choose a credible story with real turmoil over shock-value theatrics.



GOOD: Rating is based on 4-5 stars, with 4 being the best.

Sorry, it was hard for me to buy this heated exchange between the nine-months pregnant Leslie (Ms. Long) and the gay sperm donor of her artificially inseminated child. He: "Why don't you bite me!" She: "Why don't you suck my left t-word!" If they wanted to



tackle the serious side of an interracial lesbian couple raising a bi-racial child, that would've been far more compelling than Beverly Hills 90210 in drag. Designed to position homosexuals safely in the mainstream, the film may allow us to laugh at the lifestyle, but the superficial send up doesn't really scratch the surface of the gay psyche or the gay quandary.

Unrated but would warrant an R for profanity and gay everything.

GLENN CLOSE

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mation call 973-639-1200.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Caldwell - Caldwell College Concerts at 8 p.m. For further information call 201-329-6750.

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MORRISTOWN - The Morris Museum explores and celebrates the arts, sciences, and humanities through exhibitions, educational programs, performing arts and special events. For further information call 973-538-0454

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17
MORRISTOWN - Minstrel Coffeehouse presents Ocasiano and Luke Brimley. For further information call 973-335-9489

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
NEW YORK - The Museum of the City of New York, invites you to the Press Preview celebrating the opening SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2000

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 3RD
NEWARK - The Daughter's of Lee Roy Jones. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday's at 3:00 p.m. For further information call 973-624-1584.

NEWARK - Production Of: If Loving You Is Wrong. A musical drama. Show time is at 8 p.m. For further information call 973-624-1584

NEW YORK - The still lifes of Evaristo Baschenis The Music Of Silence. For further information call at 10:00 a.m.-noon.

RAHWAY - The Gallery at The Arts Guild of Rahway will open "From Body To Spirit" an exhibit of sculpture. For further information call 732-381-7511.

RAHWAY - Musical Revue Ann's Misbehavior brings "Strut" and "High Hatin'" back into fashion at 3 and 8 p.m.

HIGHBRIDGE - "Miniatures Plus/Art Show from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. For further information call 908-638-3838.

For more information call 732-499-0441 x 232.
NEWARK - New Jersey Historical Society exhibition Coating With Corn. from 12:30-1:30 p.m. For further information call 973-596-8500 ext. 243

NEW YORK CITY - Symphony Spac's 2000-2001 Literary Season Kick-Off. For further information call 718-435-4744

NEWARK - New Jersey All-State

One-on-one

CBS's Judge Curtis always had a mission

By Kam Williams

The Honorable James Curtis was born in LA to devoutly religious parents. His father, a bricklayer, worked tirelessly to support the family. James was the first in the family not only to go to law school but even to attend college. He passed the California bar in 1989 and worked for ten years as a prosecutor in the DA's office.

James Curtis became a familiar face during the OJ trial, when he appeared regularly on Court TV, ABC, NBC and CNBC as an expert commentator. Since then he has served as an on-air talking head for such high-profile cases as Elian Gonzales and Jon-Benet Ramsey.

Now King World has provided James with a gavel, a robe and his own television show. Curtis Court, syndicated and distributed worldwide by CBS, gives the dynamic, motivational speaker the perfect platform to exhibit his intelligence, compassion, humor and fairness in a non-venue, compelling courtroom format.

KW: How did you like being a prosecutor?

JC: "I loved it. I loved putting people in jail. I loved making sure that the right person was held accountable. And I had a great, great time. It got me up in the morning."

KW: When I was in law school, and worked in the criminal justice system, I was a radical."

JC: "As we were all, I went through my Communist stint."

KW: "But I was too torn to ever be a prosecutor because I could see the sociological roots of criminal behavior, such as poverty. And yet, I couldn't be a defense attorney either because I couldn't excuse that behavior when these criminals were always mugging other poor people."

JC: "Sure, black-on-black, Hispanic-on-Hispanic, poor-on-poor. It's really incredible. And being black, the whole idea of being a prosecutor comes with a lot of baggage: recriminations, controversy and criticism from the black community and from our peers. To the extent that people ask, 'How could you help put brothers in jail?' How could you do that to your own people?"

KW: Why take such an unpopular, 'no-win' job?

JC: "For me, being a prosecutor wasn't just a job. It was a mission. Even in school, I was always very public service-minded. I was involved with the Black Student Union in college and, in law school, with organizations trying to improve the plight of people of color. So, when I considered becoming a prosecutor, it was a very weighty decision for me."

KW: Why, because you'd be putting brothers in jail?

JC: "To a large extent, I would be the first one to agree that people of color and people who don't have a lot of money or experience with the system are victimized by it. Because they aren't adequately represented and because the people making the decisions don't look like them. But instead of saying, 'I'm not going to have anything to do with the system,' I decided that I had to become a part of it, because it needed people who understood the cultural dynamic which contributed to the conduct which was being prosecuted, without justifying it, or saying it was right or wrong. So, it was important to me to do what I could to make sure the law was fairly implemented."

KW: If the system unfairly targets minorities, should minorities sitting on juries use jury nullification to set minority defendants free?

JC: "Absolutely not. That's immoral."

KW: So what's the answer, if a disproportionate percentage of non-whites are being targeted and sent to prison. For instance drug laws do out-stiffer penalties for crack-cocaine, the black drug of choice, than for powdered cocaine, the white man's preference.

JC: "I think that's an accurate criticism, but instead of lowering the punishment for crack-cocaine, they should raise the punishment for the powdered."

KW: How much were you as a prosecutor able to make a difference?

JC: "The prosecutor is the one who makes the decision as to who gets charged, what they get charged with and what deal they get offered. I might be able to see a kid



who has a family and some support in the community as deserving an opportunity to make things right where a less sensitive prosecutor might think, 'This is just another black guy with a gun, let's put him away for as long as we can.'"

KW: So, how did you treat defendants?

JC: "I was not out to assail people. I treated them with respect. I never tried to make it seem like they were monstrous or less than human. I dealt with the facts; I dealt with their conduct. I kept it professional. I didn't make it personal. I let people maintain their dignity and self-respect."

KW: There are those of us who would argue that the system unfairly profiles its targets, and that a disproportionate number of minorities end up in prison.

JC: "That's not a statement that I find hard to believe. There is some kind of selective prosecution and, selective arrest going on. As a matter of fact, it was documented in a case in LA, with regards to federal drug charges. For the year and a half a certain task force was in operation. They only arrested black drug dealers. You've got to question that."

KW: Can't we

do more than question it? People are being targeted and incarcerated.

JC: "That's why I became a prosecutor. My philosophy is to go a step further. By my very presence, I will affect the fairness of the decision. People who have prejudices about people of color, are less likely to act on them inappropriately, if you're there. So, you, therefore, affect the process."

KW: Let me play the Devil's Advocate here and ask you to explain a case like Dials where the presence of a black District Attorney didn't mean a thing. The state never tried to mount a credible case against the cops.

JC: "I understand what you mean. You can't expect that just because you have a black prosecutor there, that you're going to get the most aggressive and the most genuinely thorough treatment of a case. They're still individuals."

KW: It's like having Thurgood Marshall versus Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court.

JC: "You can't expect great things just because you have a black prosecutor. And conversely, just because you have a white prosecutor, that doesn't mean you should expect the opposite, either. My point is simply this. I was one of only two black prosecutors out of over 100 in my office. And the more you can increase black participation, the more you can ensure objectively fair results. So African-Americans have to infiltrate, if you will, those areas where the decisions are being made."

KW: And yet, what about the reaction of blacks to some African-American pro-

secutors, such as Chris Darden, who asked OJ Simpson to try on the gloves?

Even though OJ was acquitted, my guess is that Darden is fairly ostracized by the black community.

JC: "It would even tend to say 'vilified' in some circumstances. And that's unfortunate because this was a situation where the man was doing a job and wielding a tremendous amount of authority and power. Would you rather have Chris handling the case or somebody like Mark Fuhrman. That seems like an easy decision. So, to assail someone for becoming a prosecutor, that's not fair."

KW: Would OJ have been convicted, if you had been the prosecutor JC? "The prosecution lost that case. I've never had a homicide case with that much evidence. I like to think that if I'd prosecuted that case, I would have won it. But you can't know. At the same time that prosecution team was dealing pressures that no attorneys had ever had to deal with, Chris was getting death threats throughout the entire case. And there was a non-stop media circus surrounding the court."

KW: There are a flood of People's Court type shows. What's different about Curtis Court?

JC: "We don't only focus on who wins and who loses the money. The distinction on Curtis Court is that I'm after dealing with the dynamic of what brought these folks to court in the first place. Making a decision about who wins is pretty easy 99 percent of the time. I'm more concerned with what dynamic prevented them, from working this out before they came to court."

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Feds warn consumers about Internet scams

By D. Ian Hopper
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Getting stiffed at an Internet auction. An "all expenses paid" hotel that turns out not to be free. An offer for free adult material on the Web that secretly runs up a hefty phone bill.

The government cited these gimmicks last Tuesday as it posted its first-ever top 10 list of Internet scams that Americans should avoid, and vowed to work with overseas law enforcement to crack down on Web con artists.

"The Internet has changed the way consumers gather information, shop and do business," Federal Trade Commission director of consumer protection Jodie Bernstein said. "It's also changed the way law enforcers and consumer protection agencies do business."

Several of the FTC's "dot con" scams are very old tricks reincarnated on the Internet. Miracle products, credit card theft and old-fashioned pyramid schemes are getting a new life online, officials said.

Worries about Internet thieves have slowed electronic commerce since its inception, but more con-

sumers are gradually warming to the idea of Internet purchases. The FTC's new consumer protection effort is intended to keep criminals from undermining that trust, officials said.

The agency said the government has brought 251 lawsuits against online scammers in 2000. Officials described a handful of the cases to better educate Web consumers about the dangers.

For instance, the FTC has sued three individuals and their company, Computers By Us, in Thomasville, Pa., alleging they participated in online auctions without delivering the goods or offering a refund after getting paid.

The operators of the company did not respond to calls at their office for comment.

The agency also alleged that a group of affiliated Arizona companies sent \$3.50 "rebate" checks to consumers. When the checks were cashed, the consumers unwittingly agreed to allow the defendants to be their Internet service provider.

Monthly charges started appearing on phone bills and were difficult to remove, officials alleged.

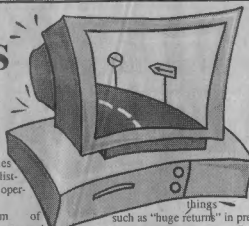
The companies had no telephone listings, according to operator assistance.

RJB Telecom of Scottsdale, Ariz., was sued along with its principals for offering a free "viewer" or "dialer" program to access free adult material.

The government alleges that without consumers' knowledge, the program disconnected the user's computer from their Internet provider and made an international call — typically to the Caribbean — to another Internet provider. Consumers unwittingly racked up large long distance charges, the government alleged.

The company and its executives also are accused of billing credit card holders for services the consumers say were never used. The company did not have a phone listing, according to directory assistance, and did not immediately respond to an e-mail for comment.

Officials also warned that scammers are targeting small business owners and stock traders. Some consumers have used day trading services that promise



such as "huge returns" in predicting the market but later find the claims inflated.

Titan Business Solutions, a California company, was sued after it advertised for medical billers that could work at home and earn up to \$45,000 per year.

Customers who called Titan were asked to send more than \$300 to the company in exchange for some software and motivational tapes which they couldn't return, the lawsuit alleges.

There was no phone or e-mail listing for the company.

In traditional computer crime, such as hacking, law enforcement efforts can be hobbled by international borders with differing jurisdictions and laws.

The FTC said it is trying to overcome those obstacles by creating a new international network of consumer protection agencies.

It said it is working with 240 agencies in the United States as well as officials in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway and Britain.

State's largest gas supplier wants end to price controls

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In a year that has seen natural gas prices soar by 150 percent, New Jersey's largest natural gas company wants the state to end price controls.

In a filing with the state Board of Public Utilities, Public Service Electric & Gas Co. asks the state to get out of the business of regulating what suppliers can charge. Instead, the company wants to let market conditions determine what the price should be each month.

"It's a question of whether or not you think a free market in the long run will lower prices for consumers," company spokeswoman Kathy Ellis said. "If you believe that in a free market, market conditions will result in lower prices, then you look to deregulation."

Less than a month ago, the company was awarded a 16 percent rate increase, but Ellis said the deregulation request is not related to that increase. She said the petition to the BPU was required under New Jersey's energy deregulation law, and was filed in August, before prices suddenly spiked.

"It's a plan that was created when the landscape was different than it is now regarding gas prices," she said. "We're expecting a lot of people to weigh in on it."

Indeed, they are already. Consumer advocates are blasting the request, warning that homeowners could be hit with exorbitant heating bills this winter if the request is approved.

No hearing date has been set on the request.

"We think this is a step in the wrong direction," said Staci Berger, project director for New Jersey Citizen Action. "We're really concerned for low-income customers who would be subjected to wild

swings in prices."

Berger also disputed the utility's assertion that free-market forces will lower prices.

"Two words: 'Cable TV,'" she said. "Competition is a good idea in theory, but we haven't seen an industry in which it works very well. What you wind up with is an unregulated monopoly, which is the worst of all possible worlds."

Blossom Perez, the state's ratepayer advocate, also sees no benefit to consumers in the proposal, which her office is studying in detail.

PSE&G officials said their plan is necessary to create a more competitive marketplace for natural gas in New Jersey. The state broke up its four gas monopolies in January, allowing consumers to shop around for different suppliers, but few customers have done so.

The plan would make it easier for third-party providers to sell natural gas in New Jersey and provide more competition, company officials say.

Natural gas rates are set a year in advance in New Jersey. A utility that has prices too low has the right to ask the BPU for an increase; all four gas companies did so earlier this year. Three of the four won rate increases last month ranging from 16 to 22.5 percent, but the BPU scaled back the original proposals by the utilities after public protest.

And if rates are set too high, the utilities are required by law to refund the money to customers with interest.

Under its plan, PSE&G would freeze rates for three years at 12.47 cents per therm for winter months, and 5.296 cents per therm for summer months. After January 2003, the price would be based on market prices.

Ford releases driving tips for tire failure

DETROIT (AP) — Nearly three months after announcing a recall of Firestone tires linked to crashes and failures, Ford Motor Co. has released a set of tips for drivers if a tire fails.

The tips posted on Ford's Web site last Wednesday are advertised as useful for tire failures "whether it's a blowout from a road hazard or a tire tread separation." Tread separation has been cited as the main cause of Firestone tire failures that have been tied to 119 deaths and more than 400 injuries.

Ford's advice for tire failures: "Remain calm. Don't brake hard or steer violently. Take your foot off the accelerator to begin to slow

down. Do not try to steer off the road immediately — remain in your lane as you slow down.

Use your turn signal to alert traffic around you that you intend to pull off on the shoulder when you can safely do so.

"Gently depress the brake pedal to further slow

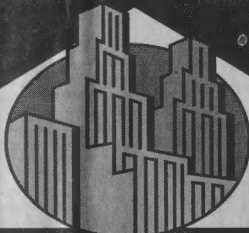
down. Steer gradually on to the shoulder, safely away from passing traffic. Turn on your hazard lights while you change the tire or await roadside assistance."

Ford spokesman Jon Harmon said Ford's customer call center had been giving out similar advice since the recall, but that "it may not have been as consistent as we would have liked." The Detroit Free Press reported that a Ford customer was not able to get such tips despite repeated calls and letters to Ford.

The tips were posted on Ford's public Web site as well as ones for workers and the media. Harmon said the tips may be inserted into future owner's manuals.



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Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

PATERSON — The Center of Management Development is hosting a seminar on how to adjust to the changes in the workplace, from 10:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register: 1-800-889-9771.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

TEANECK — The NYNJ Minority Business Purchasing Council is hosting its awards gala at the Marriott at Glenpointe. For more information call (212) 502-5663.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

NEWARK — Free Certification Workshop for minority and women business entrepreneurs at 920 Broad Street from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information, call Sydney Troutman-Doss at (973) 733-8527.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

TRENTON — NJ Alliance Action will host a 18th Annual Construction Forecast Seminar which previews the next two years of construction programs being prepared by public agencies and private industry in New Jersey. For more information call (732) 225-1180.

NEWARK — The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) presents a seminar "Starting and Managing Your Own Business" on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the SCORE Office 2 Gateway Center, 15th Floor. Subjects will include business plans, record keeping, tax obligations, marketing, legal requirements and financing. For information, call (973) 645-3582.

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Software allows companies to crack down on employees' Internet

By Judith Forman
Associated Press Writer

Dan Escamilla's administrative assistant had a problem. An Internet problem.

After repeated written and verbal warnings — and a promise to give up her online chatting on company time — the woman couldn't break her habit.

So, Escamilla, chief executive officer of the Huntington Beach, Calif.-based Legal Service Bureau, surreptitiously installed surveillance software on some company computers.

He caught his assistant red-handed. Presented with printouts of her computer screen, she broke down in tears, stumbled over some office furniture and ran out of the building. He hasn't heard from her since.

A growing number of employers are using surveillance software to crack down on personal Internet use at the office. Most cite productivity issues, although many say they want to avoid legal liabilities that could stem from offensive e-mails. Still others say they want to prevent leaks of confidential business information.

An American Management Association survey this year found that 38 percent of the major U.S. companies polled check their

employees' e-mail and 54 percent monitor Internet connections.

Of the 2,100 firms responding to the survey, 17 percent have fired employees for misusing the Internet. Twenty-six percent have given workers formal reprimands and 20 percent have issued informal warnings.

The definition of misuse may vary with each company, said Eric Rolfe Greenberg, the AMA's director of management studies. The numbers are high, he said, because cruising the Internet is still a big deal.

"We tend to forget how new it is," Greenberg said. "As time goes by, the novelty will wear off."

E. Morris Communications competes for oldsmobile general market ad campaign

CHICAGO — Advertising with an urban flair is what recently earned Chicago-based E. Morris Communications, Inc. (EMC) an invitation to compete for Oldsmobile's 2001 divisional ad campaign against two general market agencies.

EMC has driven Oldsmobile's African-American targeted marketing efforts since 1997, including advertising, media planning and promotions. In that time

Internet abusers have an illusion of privacy, Greenberg said. Because there's no one standing over their shoulder, employees "tend to forget or ignore or not assume that anything connected to a central server can probably be stored and reviewed."

Nearly 2,000 companies nationwide — including Escamilla's — use a monitoring system made by SpecterSoft that captures a picture of an employee's computer screen every one to 30 seconds.

Employers can review the pictures at the monitored computers — or have the images sent to an e-mail account for later review.

Though the Internet may be

relatively new, goofing off at work is not, said Laurie Murphy, president of KEY RESOURCES, a consulting firm in Cranford, N.J.

Instead of spending time and money to monitor and discipline workers, employers would be better off making the workplace an environment where people will want to be productive, Murphy said.

Escamilla says he does just that. He wants his employees to be comfortable. They can work in shorts and T-shirts and listen to music if they like.

He just won't tolerate them wasting the day on the Internet.

Oldsmobile's sales to African American car buyers have tripled, mainly due to EMC's top line ad campaigns and celebrity landed promotional programs.

In a bold move to increase sales across all demographics, Oldsmobile is allowing EMC to test its cutting-edge approach to advertising against industry giants Leo Burnett, also in Chicago, and McCann Erickson of New York. Leo Burnett is Oldsmobile's general market agency of record.

Agency founder and CEO Eugene Morris said EMC is ripe for the challenge.

"Although African-American marketing has been our main focus up to this point, we've always felt confident in our ability to extend our vision of consumer marketing beyond our own community," according to Morris. "Fortunately, after having worked with this client for a number of years, we understand the division and its product brand offerings."

The agency's 1999 "Unexpected" ad campaign for the Oldsmobile Intrigue led to two Public Relations Advertising Marketing Excellence Awards

(PRAME), including Best Television Advertisement and Advertising Agency of the Year. "Unexpected" also earned EMC an Alpha Award for Best Diversity Campaign, General Motors' highest award for marketing and advertising.

EMC has experienced an impressive growth spurt since early 1999. The agency tripled its staff and office space and capped off 1999 billings at more than \$30 million. The figure represents a 50 percent increase over 1998, thanks to the addition of premiere accounts such as Ralston Purina and Philip Morris, as well as increased activity among the current client base.

Morris, a Chicago native, founded the agency 13 years ago. He received the Small Business Person of the Year Award from Governor George Ryan during the state's Small Business 2000 Summit in January. The agency was recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the best-run inner city businesses and by the Minority Business Report as one of the 10 outstanding businesses of 1999.

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Market entry program for new exporters

Newark — All businesses in New Jersey can prepare for entry into the global marketplace with a Market Entry Program for new exporters. The seven-session course, presented free by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) and the NJ Small Business Development Centers (NSBDC), will begin on Dec. 6 and continue through March 2001, at the SBA's offices in Newark.

The program provides qualified firms a tailored market entry program to prepare them to successfully transact business internationally. For the 2000 - 2001 training, Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean Basin will be emphasized because of their proximity to the U.S. and favorable markets for first-time exporters. However, the course will offer information that can be applied to doing business in all countries. The classes, led by trade professionals, will introduce participants to the following topics: doing business overseas, the benefits of NAFTA, marketing, trade finance, legal aspects, pricing and transportation. The participants will receive detailed information on these markets and acquire knowledge of the export process to these countries. Participants will be advised on how to participate in overseas trade shows, trade missions and other trade promotion activities. Interested companies must meet the following criteria: be an operating business, have an identified exportable product or service, and be able to attend all seven class sessions.

The Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce provides export assistance through its global network of 1,800 international trade professionals. Its Global Diversity Initiative supports the priority of making the Commercial Service a better export promotion agency by increasing interaction with and export assistance to minority businesses, a growing and vibrant segment of the U.S. economy. Currently, minority firms export at half the rate of other firms of comparable size. The New Jersey Small Business Development Centers' International Trade Program (<http://www.yourbiz-partner.com/internationaltrade>) provides free counseling and low-cost training to assist NJ companies in taking advantage of international opportunities.

Participation in this program is limited to 15 companies. A low \$50 fee will be charged to cover costs. The course starts early December so qualified companies should apply now. Contact Diana Vulpis of the US Department of Commerce at (973) 645-4682, or diana.vulpis@mail-doe.gov to apply; or Roger S. Cohen of the New Jersey Small Business Development Centers at (973) 353-1594 or roger@rogercohen.com.

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